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*Featured Vocalist with Charlie Barnet's Orchestra—See Page 38*

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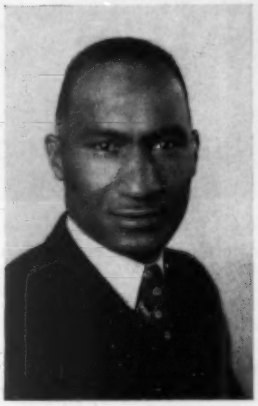
# College and School News



Winfred A. Hamilton who succeeds the late I. C. Tull as Business Manager at **Lincoln University** (Mo.) has served in the same capacity at Morris Brown, Langston and Virginia State

President S. D. Scruggs of **Lincoln Univerity** (Mo.) delivered an address on "The Negro in Aviation" over Station KXOX, St. Louis, Mo., on December 10.

Miss Minnie Reid of Winston-Salem, N. C., senior at **Bennett College**, has won the first prize in a stamp design contest commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Thirteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution sponsored by the NYA. She received a $25 award.

**The West Virginia State College** has called for a listing of all skilled craftsmen in the state of West Virginia in connection with its National Defense Training Program.

The 5th Annual Farm and Home Week, which proceeds the 50th anniversary of the Tuskegee Negro Farmers' Conference, opened December 11, 1940, with a record breaking enrollment at **Tuskegee Institute.**

The National Foundation of Infantile Paralysis, Inc., certified the Tuskegee Institute Chapter of the National Foundation of Infantile Paralysis, Inc., on December 18, 1940. The Chapter's principal objectives are raising funds to aid in the fight against infantile paralysis and serve in an advisory capacity for the activities of the Tuskegee Institute Infantile Paralysis Center dedicated on January 15, 1941.

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*MISS FRANCES L. HUGHES, '42*

*At the Homecoming Game—Cheyney vs. Bordentown on November 16, 1940, Miss Hughes was chosen by the young men of Cheyney State Teachers College as Miss Homecoming. Her home is in Washington, Pa.*

Two **Howard University** professors, Drs. Charles H. Wesley and Rayford W. Logan, read papers at the 55th annual meeting of the American Historical Association at New York City's Hotel Pennsylvania, where an entire session was devoted for the first time in history to the Negro in the history of the U.S.A.

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, head of the Political Science Department told the 36th annual convention of the American Political Science Association in Chicago that the severe policies of registration officials in the deep South is the main cause of the mass disfranchisement of the Southern Negro. This was the first time in the Association's history that an entire session was devoted to the study of the political status of the Negro.

High school graduates with superior ability, who are financially unable to attend college, will be given an opportunity to attend Howard University. This is made possible by the newly-inaugurated National Collegiate Scholarship Examination contest for high school graduates since 1938, and high school seniors who will graduate by June, 1941. Competition will be held in eight geographical areas and scholarships of $250 each will be awarded to eight students, one in each district, who have the highest ranking on the examination. There will also be eight alternates receiving scholarships valued at $150 each. Renewal to the extent of $150 is guaranteed successful candidates maintaining a specified scholarship average at the University. Contact James M. Nabrit, Jr., Secretary of Howard University, for further information. The scholarships are being offered by The College of Liberal Arts and the School of Music.

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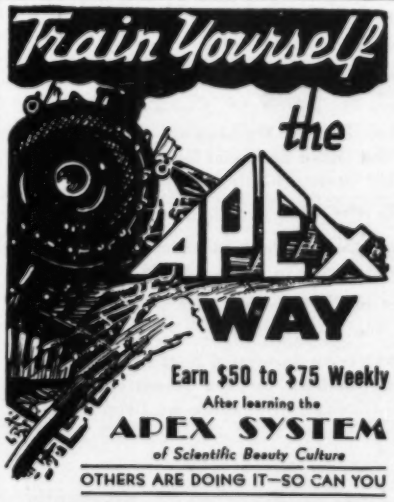


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entitled "Hampton Today." It is excellent typographically and photographically.

Hampton students have organized a College Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People with James R. Cheatham, a senior, as president.

David Apter has been appointed Assistant to the President in charge of Public Relations to direct the activities of the Institute's Publications Office and Press Service. A native of Hartford, Conn., he is a newspaper man of long experience. He is also president of the newly organized College Public Relations Association, composed of public relations directors of the various Negro colleges and universities.

Published in 1632, one of the oldest known histories of Africa has been found in the Negro collection of the Collis P. Huntington Library. It consists of two volumes of over 800 pages written in Italian by Leonis Africani.

---

Benjamin A. Quarles, associate professor of history and acting head of the division of the social studies at **Dillard University**, was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the University of Wisconsin at the Fall meeting of the board of regents. He received his degree in the field of United States history.

A science club, Pi Delta Tau Epsilon, has been formed at Dillard. Charles Atkinson, senior, of Brunswick, Ga., is president.

---

Beautiful Biddle Hall, **Cheyney State Teachers College** new administration building completed in 1938, has been opened for classroom work.

---

Wendell L. Willkie, recent Republican candidate for president of the U. S., has accepted a place on the national committee of sponsors for the current **Meharry Medical College** endowment program, which calls for raising at least $1,500,000 before July 1, 1941. Another member is Bishop William F. Anderson of the Methodist Church.

Meharry enrolls more than half of all Negro medical students in the U. S. It aims to boost its endowment from $800,000 to $6,000,000. To this end the General Education Board of New York has made conditional grants totalling $3,700,000. As soon as Meharry gets $1,500,000 from other sources, the Board will release its endowment of $3,500,000.


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# Letters to the Editor

Dayton, Ohio
January 10, 1941

Dear Sir:

In your issue of THE CRISIS of August, 1940 you carried the pictures of four of the graduating seniors of Wilberforce University in connection with an article about that school. As an old 'Forcean I took the liberty of looking up the progress of those seniors and thought you might be interested in my findings.

My inquiries produced the following:

Lt. James F. Dunn, commanding a CCC Camp in Ohio.

Miss Phillis Blackburn, Teacher in the Dayton Public Schools.

Miss Imogene Morris, instructor at Wilberforce Elementary School.

Mr. Rembert Stokes, Boston Theological Seminary student.

Lt. Arthur Williams, instructor at Campbell College, Mississippi.

Miss Margaret Williams, graduate student at Ohio State.

Miss Katherine Cochran, teacher in public schools at Columbia, S. C.

Mr. James Walker, graduate student at Ohio State.

Yours very truly,
JOHN H. JONES

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*Volume 48, No. 2* *Whole No. 362*


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THE CRISIS *was founded in 1910. It is published monthly at 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., by Crisis Publishing Company, Inc., and is the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The subscription price is $1.50 a year or 15c a copy. Foreign subscriptions $1.75. The date of expiration of each subscription is printed on the wrapper. When the subscription is due a blue renewal blank is enclosed. The address of a subscriber may be changed as often as desired, but both the old and new address must be given and two weeks' notice is necessary. Manuscripts and drawings relating to colored people are desired. They must be accompanied by return postage, and while* THE CRISIS *uses every care it assumes no responsibility for their safety in transit. Entered as second class matter November 2, 1910, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879, and additional second class entry at Albany, N. Y.*



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•

### POETRY CONTEST WINNER

**In the March number *THE CRISIS* will publish the winning poem in the poetry contest which ended February 1, 1941. The prize of ten dollars was offered by Dr. Charles Edward Russell of Washington, D. C., one of the founders of the NAACP, and a member of *THE CRISIS* editorial board, for the best poem submitted.**

•

### OUR CONTRIBUTORS

**Hon. Lee E. Geyer is a member of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States from the 17th District of California. Representative Geyer has been active in the fight to abolish the poll taxes in several Southern States responsible for the disfranchisement of millions of American citizens, colored and white.**

**Margaret Williams is the pen name of a writer living in Denver, Colo.**

**Clarence R. Johnson lives in Washington, D. C., where he is on the staff of the Office of Racial Relations, Federal Works Agency, United States Housing Authority.**

**George Washington McCorkle lives in Canton, Miss.**

**Mrs. Marita Bonner Occomy lives in Chicago, Ill. She has contributed many stories to *THE CRISIS*.**

**James W. Ivy lives in Phoebus, Va. He is a teacher in the Newport News, Va., school system.**

**Frank Marshall Davis is an Associated Negro Press editor and was director of publicity for the recent American Negro Exposition in Chicago, Ill., where he lives.**

•

### NEXT MONTH

***THE CRISIS* will carry next month the promised paragraph reviews by Arthur B. Spingarn of books and pamphlets by Negro authors published during 1940. There will be another story by Marita Bonner. Also the regular features, pictures, poetry and book reviews**

•

# Editorials

Editor, ROY WILKINS
Advisory Board: Lewis Gannett, Arthur B. Spingarn, Sterling A. Brown, William Allan Neilson, Walter White, Charles Edward Russell, Carl Murphy, John Hammond

### Jobs

CONGRATULATIONS are in order for the citizens of Kansas City, Mo., who united behind the Urban League and the N.A.A.C.P there to secure jobs for Negro carpenters in the construction work at Ft. Riley, Kansas. The men at first found themselves shut out because they were not union members. Then along came an organizer and helped them form a local of their own. Finally, with about 24 hours until the deadline, the men were still without approximately $200 to pay on the initial fees of all the members. Kansas City citizens underwrote the $200 and within the next 48 hours, thirty-five men were at work.

Both national Negro organizations united in Kansas City in attacking the employment problem in national defense and rallied other local organizations into a central committee. A survey of all industries in the area has been completed and all phases of the defense program are included in the work. The latest activity is aimed at breaking down the inequality in vocational training.

Kansas City, already the most active center in the country in combatting discrimination against the Negro in the defense program, has set up a pattern of group cooperation which should be followed by every community.

### Tolerance

OF all the pronouncements on tolerance and democracy, the clearest was given by Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes upon the occasion when he was awarded a plaque by the National Conference of Jews and Christians. Said he:

"Liberty cannot be conserved by majority rule unless the majority hold sacred basic individual rights regardless of race or creed, so that, along with our differences of view, political and religious, we have a deep and abiding sense of human dignity and worth hence our capacity for friendly cooperation in pursuit of common ideals of justice. . . . Rancor and bigotry, racial animosities and intolerance are wholly incompatible with that cooperation. They are the deadly enemies of true democracy, more dangerous than any external force because they undermine the very foundations of democratic effort."

Particularly to be noted is the last sentence: "They are . . . more dangerous than any external force because they undermine the very foundations of democracy."

Americans who are hanging on to the color line in the face of a crashing world, all the while talking frantically of preserving democracy, would do well to study the words of the Chief Justice.

### Sidelight on British Democracy

PERSISTENTLY has Great Britain refrained from stating officially her war aims. She has preferred to say simply that she is fighting to rid the world of Hitlerism. This is not enough. British officialdom knows it is not enough, but they do not intend to say more.

The important question in the minds of millions of British subjects, white and colored, within and without the British Isles is: are we fighting for a continuation of the *status quo,* or are we to set up, in truth, a new and better world? Millions of people in America who are being whipped into a frenzy to support Britain have the same question in their minds.

A revealing sidelight on this momentous question was reported in January from London. A member of parliament made several recommendations for improvement in air raid shelters and observed that he thought "separate shelters for white and colored" would be beneficial.

If this is all Britain is fighting for: the *status quo,* a world in which poor men will still be poor and rich men rich, a world in which color will determine status, then to ask American Negroes to fight and die for Britain will seem like asking them to fight and die for Mississippi.

### Serious Greek Letter Societies

MORE marked than ever at the Christmas conventions of the Greek letter sororities and fraternities was the trend toward attacking the serious problems of racial and national life. There was a time when Greek letter societies met for the sole purpose of having a good time, of wrangling over the purchase of a house, of scheming to outshine some other group in a strictly social program.

Today our societies are concerning themselves with the grave situations facing the race as a whole. The Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, and the Kappa Alpha Psi and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternities, which met in Kansas City, voted funds to maintain a broad, practical social welfare program. Other "Greeks," meeting elsewhere, did likewise.

Alpha Kappa Alpha voted the sum of $4,000 to maintain a lobby in Washington, watching national legislation affecting Negroes. The joint public meeting of the three societies addressed itself to the Negro in the national defense program. The problems of employment, voting, health and education received attention.

Of course, the lads and lassies had a good time, as they should have had; but they showed by their deliberations and their final votes that they mean to carry on a program to benefit the entire race.

### Air Pilots, But Segregated

THE War Department has announced that an Army Air Corps squadron with an all-Negro personnel will be formed and trained at Tuskegee Institute. It is to have 27 pursuit planes, 33 pilots, and a ground force of about 400.

This is a step in the right direction in the sense that it does open up to Negro Americans a branch of the armed service from which they heretofore have been barred. But it is by no means the answer to the demand of colored people for full integration into all branches of the arms and services of the nation. It adheres to the old Army pattern of segregation. This pattern is the cause of most of the trouble experienced by Negroes in civilian as well as military life. Until segregation as a procedure is overthrown, the race will be hobbled in all its endeavors in every field.

THE CRISIS says here what it said about the announcement from The White House last October that segregation would be the policy of the Army; this procedure gives the green light to a complete segregated pattern for Negroes throughout American life. We may be forced to accept it, but we can never agree to it.

### A Glad Goodbye

FOR the resignation of Associate Justice James Clark McReynolds from the United States supreme court, Negro Americans should give thanks. In fact, there ought to be quiet celebrations in our ranks. For Mr. Justice McReynolds, in his twenty-six years on the nation's highest bench, has probably done more harm to the aspirations of Negroes to win and enjoy their citizenship rights than any other single man. THE CRISIS salutes him with a glad goodbye.

# THE SOUTH

**By George Washington McCorkle**

I've just been thinking about the things
That happen in the South;
You listen, but your blood will boil;
I cannot hold my mouth.

Of course you may not have the kind
Of conscience that is due;
So if you're filled with selfish pride,
Such things don't bother you.

But anybody who can find
One ounce of common-sense
Should realize that there must come
A day of recompense.

I just can't see how men with souls
And consciences as well,
Allow themselves to be led off
And fill up with such hell.

I suffer when somebody hurts
The least one in my crew;
When they roll with the stomach ache,
My belly hurts me too.

When they are hungry, I refuse
My dainty dish to eat;
I'm satisfied to share with them
In eating bread and meat.

When they are robbed and burned to death,
While crying out to God,
My bleeding heart in anguish groans
Beneath the chastening rod.

I may be scorned because I'm black
Or mixed a bit with tan,
But understand, I'm just as proud
And good as any man.

If you don't care to eat with me,
Just hold on to your view;
I have as much for you to gain
As I can gain from you.

You fear we will contaminate
Or mix with you some way;
You're so confounded filled with hate,
You're nervous every day. . .

You should be fair and honest too
If we are to agree;
Since you say we can't mix with you,
Why do you mix with me?

Now there has been some mixing up,
For there are many breeds;
There must be some big hypocrites
Who keep on sowing seeds.

Yet we must stew your pork and beans
And bake your pumpkin pie:
Within the confines of the home
We seem to satisfy.

You do not try to find the best
We have to judge us by;
You reach to get the lowest type,
And knowing it's a lie.

You cannot hold us in the dust
And catch a larger view;
As long as we are in the ditch,
You're in the gutter too.

If you will rise, we both can look
And start to higher ground;
By recognizing men as men,
We'll mount up round by round.

Miscarried justice has prevailed
Throughout the length of years;
We bowed in grief, but you ignored
The falling of our tears.

You filibustered and sidetracked
The Anti-lynching bill,
And so your garments yet are rent—
Your hands are bloody still.

No special favors do we ask,
But justice we demand
Right here on this American soil—
Here in our native land.

Through all this foolishness and strife,
I see a healthful sign;
There are a few whose lives are touched
By that great hand divine.

And every day this number grows
In magnitude and might;
Their hearts and minds are centered on
The doing of the right.

The scene, a blessed one it is—
Men are awake at last;
The years of carnage are no more—
The fires of hell are past.

I see old Dixie burst her bonds
Of prejudice and hate;
I see a better attitude
In every southern state.

I see the barriers broken down—
Men join in one great band
To form a world-wide brotherhood
To love and understand.

I see where thorns once thickly grew,
Sweet roses give good cheer,
For men at last have come to know
That love casts out all fear.

I see men grasp each other's hand,
Forgetting tribe and clan,
And in their dealings, justice spreads
And rests on every man.

We'll triumph in the final end
With new things for the old;
From lethargy we shall awake,
A new South to behold.

A mighty shout is heard afar,
While millions join to sing
That right at last has conquered wrong
Through CHRIST our LORD and KING.

*Photo by Bradley Smith*

*Young Mother and Child, Memphis, Tenn.*

# The Poll Tax Can Be Abolished

## By Lee E. Geyer

NO one with the exception of an obscure newspaper editor in Greenville, South Carolina, and a Congressman from Mississippi who has come to Washington for the last twenty years with the grace of less than ten per cent of his electorate, today denies that the poll tax disfranchises the mass of white and Negro Southerners. Statistics are hardly necessary to prove the case, but to make it clear to the poll-tax apologists who say that Southerners do vote, but that they do it in the primaries, the figures show that in the very heaviest primary election 63 per cent of the people stayed at home on the primary election day, and as we all know, in all but a few of the poll tax states, the primary is for whites only. Compare the figures with the non-poll tax states where in the 1940 election more than 70 per cent of the people voted.

The abolition of the poll tax as a requirement for voting, always a demand of the Negro and white Southerners who worked for their livings as tenant farmers or sharecropprs, or as factory workers of one sort of another, has been placed on today's order of business by the pressure of not only the people in the South, but of people throughout the country for social legislation. The beginnings of New Deal legislation in the latter part of the 1930's helped to polarize the South only as the Reconstruction and the Populist era had done before. In nearly every Southern state, schisms developed in the Democratic party machinery between the New Dealers and the Bourbons. and in each of the states, the poll tax by restricting the suffrage to the wealthier classes, served to reduce the popular vote for the New Deal candidates, just as in the 1900's it had destroyed the political strength of the Populists.

### Southern Opposition

Though there has been occasional support among the 78 congressmen and 16 senators from the eight poll tax states for some New Deal legislation, that group of legislators has provided, together with the Northern Republicans, the most cohesive opposition to the reform measures. Kept in power year after year by a restricted electorate, the poll tax legislators have acquired through the privilege of seniority the chairmanships

***Millions of black and white Americans in the South are disfranchised. This device enab'es a small oligarchy to rule the region and makes it possib.e for a little group of politicians to misrepresent the masses of people year in and year out***

of the important congressional committees, and they have attempted to use their positions to kill measures for relief, housing, minimum wages, and the right of labor to organize. More than a third of the house committees are headed by poll tax congressmen, and on the most important one, the Rules Committee, four of the ten ranking members are poll-taxers. In the Senate also, a third of the committees are headed by poll tax senators, while they number only one sixth of its membership. That there has been a coalition between the Southern Democrats and the Northern Republicans is well-known, and it is dramatized only too often when needed legislation fails to pass.

Thus there have been stirrings in the past several years among the progressive Southerners who want legislation to improve the South's standard of living by providing an adequate program for health, education, farm tenancy, unemployment relief, and the establishment of fair labor standards throughout the South. Perhaps the most significant movement of Southerners met in the Southern Conference for Human Welfare in Birmingham in 1939 and in Chattanooga in 1940. This group represented every section of Southern life which was at all interested in ameliorating its condition of living. Out of this Conference has come the leadership for the movement to abolish what Maury Maverick has termed the South's "fractional democracy," which is maintained by the poll tax.

### Votelessness Makes This

*Carver's Camp public school for Negroes near Lakeland, Fla.*

### Three Fronts

The movement has developed along three fronts. On one, it has been to repeal the poll tax as a requirement for voting in each of the states. On the second, it has been to test the constitutionality of the tax in the courts. And on the third front, it has been to enact a federal law to prohibit the collection of poll taxes as a requirement for voting in elections for members of Congress, the Senate, and the President of the United States.

In seven of the eight states which retain the poll tax as a requirement for voting, the law is embedded in the constitutions. This is significant because where the poll tax has been merely a legislative enactment rather than a constitutional provision, it has been possible to effect its repeal. Thus in three states with a statutory requirement, the poll tax has been abolished within fairly recent years. North Carolina removed it as a bar to voting in 1920 when the World War veterans returned from the overseas "war for democracy" to find that they were not able to participate in their democracy at home. A combination of factors, not the least of which was the pressure of the disfranchised people, has removed the poll tax in Florida and in Louisiana. Tennessee is at present engaged in a campaign to eliminate the tax though it is not certain whether the requirement is statutory or constitutional. If the Tennessee legislature does repeal the tax as a requisite to voting, it is likely that its authority to do so will be questioned in the courts.

The rigidity of the constitutions in all of the other states makes it virtually im-

(*Continued on page* 60)

# Grazing In Good Pastures

## By Margaret Williams

HANDSOME young David Woods made a mistake when he fell in love with a bright-skinned gal. At least all of Coonville thought so. He was fair to rue the day he brought home a woman like that. A farmer had no more use with a light-eyed wife than a monkey had with a side-saddle. Why, her hair was too yellow and straight and her skin too fair for her to hoe in the field. That would mean that David must hire all his work.

That was what all of Coonville was saying when young David brought his bride home to the little farm in the pines down in East Texas. He had found her in Dallas. Being city-bred and practically white, she would have ideas, of course, that would soon ruin any hard-working man. That was to be expected.

But Rubye was determined to prove to the settlement that no matter how bright was her skin she could make a farmer a good wife.

She had a good education, better than that of any of the white folks around there. Before she had left she had gathered all the information she could about farming in East Texas. Her fancy had been struck when she learned that roses was one of the main crops.

"I love roses!" she told David. "Roses teach us that everything must have a purpose for coming to this earth. A rose's duty is to be beautiful and to smell sweet. He starts out being beautiful, and the older he grows the sweeter is his expression. I'm going to love growing roses. I'll cross them. I bet I find one no one else has ever found."

David's expression was non-committal. No doubt, though, he was wondering how he could break the news to her easy-like that the farm was for cotton and corn. That was all that had ever been raised on it.

"Why, when business gets good, we'll even get a tractor to work the roses. I read that people have acres and acres of roses down there."

"I'se afraid, honey, we can't never have no tractor. The stumps is so bad. We have to use a hand plow so we can pull up from around the stumps."

"We can get the stumps out."

"Too hard a work, honey."

"Nothing is going to be too hard now, David. We're going to progress. In a year you won't know the place."

"Don't expect too much."

***A bright skinned wife from the city was ill-fitted to help a farmer in the piney woods of East Texas, but Rubye had ideas. They were new ideas, strange to David, so he resented them as foolish city notions, and sulked. How unfair it seemed for her to fool with roses while the rain killed his cotton***

But Rubye had expected more than she found. Just a two-roomed log cabin with one lone pine at the back. The stumpy field surrounded the house. The dump ground for generation was to the right of the low front porch in a sand hollow. She tried hard to hide her disappointment when she climbed out of the model T in front of the fallen-down abode.

"Why, it can be made so pretty. Trees surround the farm. Those trees yours?" She pointed to the distant wood.

"Sure, honey. A creek runs through the entire place. And them woods is sho' full of hogs."

"I hope you don't mean those funny-looking skinny long-nosed things resembling the hog we saw always running across the road?"

"Them is the piny-woods rooter. They make the best lean bacon."

"That'll be all right for the present until we get our roses started. Then I'll make a pretty park in the wood, with bridges winding across the creek. I am somewhat of a landscaper myself."

"Uh-huh. 'cuse me. I see Evvy, my hired boy," said David, as his black eyes shifted bewilderedly from his wife's pretty face.

He strode on off to have a chat with his hired hand at the barn, which was to the left of the cabin. Rubye wanted her husband to carry her across the threshold, and so she sat down on the edge of the porch to wait for his return. She could see that the hired-hand was only about sixteen and of a skin the color of good liver. She heard him say to her husband:

"All of Coonville is sayin' you sho' is grazin' in good pastures, and I see yo is."

"Yeah. But she may find country life disappointin'," replied David.

"Most city womens gits crazy notions when they come to the country. Jest put her off, Pa says iffen she does. That's what Pa always done. Oncet Ma went to town and seen some wall-paper and takened a notion to paper the cabin. She even went as fur as to borrow the catalog and see how much buildin' paper was. Pa agreed, but kept puttin' her off givin' her the money. Finally Ma give up the idea and the bare walls done her jest as much good."

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The next morning David wanted to get the cotton in the ground, but Rubye told him that he must first plow up an acre in one corner so that she could start on her roses.

"That can rest, honey. Jest as soon as I git this cotton in the ground. It might rain. Yo know we gots to eat."

So he was taking Evvy's advice!

"My roses will bring more money."

"I don't know roses, but I do cotton."

"That is why so many people remain in the same rut: afraid to try the new. You'll see if you'll only do as I say."

"Jest as soon as I gits the cotton in the ground, honey. Besides I don't wants yo in the field alone. A black runner might attact yo."

"A black runner? What's that?"

"A snake here in East Texas. It ain't poisonous, but the male snake attacts womens or girls and iffen she don't git help he'll injure her fur life. I had to cut one off my cousin oncet."

"You're just trying to scare me. Besides I can watch out and carry my hoe."

Then she tried putting her arms about her husband's neck. He always softened under her kisses. But he pulled her back, no doubt realizing he might give over if he once let her touch him.

"Please," she begged.

He just shook his head and promised as he started toward the barn.

Rubye let him hitch up. When he came by in front of the cabin on the way to the field, she ran out to beg him again. He only waved his hand to her and told Pete to get hisself on down the trail before he skinned his head.

Rubye stood there and watched him. She didn't know that David could be so stubborn. Her pride was hurt.

"All right," she told hereself, "I'll show him. I'll show all of Coonville. They think—they think—I don't care what they think. It is what I think that counts."

As Rubye hadn't yet felt the effects of coming from a high altitude to this low altitude, she found the shovel and walked down to the acre she had picked out and began spading it up.

All morning she worked, so long in fact that she forgot to see about getting dinner. When she saw David coming in for lunch, she wiped the perspiration from her brow, and fled for the cabin where she found a pile of dirty dishes. The sound of bacon frying on the wood stove was the only hope for a dinner when her husband came in.

A half-hour later she sat him down to bacon, gravy, and cold biscuits. He said not a word of complaint, but ate in a strained silence.

That night it was the same thing, and the following day. The third morning he said:

"I see I ain goin' to git any dinner if I don't plow up that land. Yo stay here and I'll git that done."

Rubye was thankful. Already she was beginning to feel tired and without energy to lift a shovel. But she didn't mention the fact to her husband. Really they had little to say to each other.

That day Rubye forced herself to sweep the house, wash the dishes, and to cook. Between work she fell down on the bed and sighed what time she was not sleeping.

Finally her husband had the acre plowed, and still Rubye did not feel like setting out her roses she had placed in a dirt box under the big pine tree. About five that afternoon she went out under the tree and looked at them. That tired feeling had her gripped so hard that she only sat down on a rusty bucket and groaned.

"This sun is so hot. Is this the reason these people never have flower yards nor paper their walls? But I won't give up. I'll keep on and on and show them. I'll whip myself to it."

The next morning Rubye dragged out to the rose field and managed to set out two rows of bushes. She was so tired when she came in to cook dinner that she sobbed as she fixed a fire and made up bread.

After dinner she dragged herself again to the field, but spent most of the time on her knees or sitting down, groaning from aching muscles and from that terrible feeling of depression.

Time dragged on. Though their days were strained, their nights were filled with love; for after all they were young and very much in love. They would lie awake and kiss and forget about the cotton field and the rose garden and listen to the cry of the whippoorwill or to the silly talk of the hoot owl.

"Listen, honey," David would say, as he held his wife in his arms, "can you make out what he's sayin'?"

"Rubber boot
shoe boot
chicken soup
so good."

Then they would kiss good-night and sigh. And she would go to sleep with her small fist doubled up in his big palm.

One year passed. Rubye had become accustomed to the low altitude, but she had never regained the feeling for a desire to progress. Still she stubbornly fought with the rose idea. She wanted to show David and all of Coonville that she knew what she was talking about. She would stand by a rose bush and gaze down upon its pretty bloom, trying hard to feel something beautiful for the flower.

"It's this hot sun pouring down upon this red sand which does something to people," she would sigh.

At last fall came, the time for the county fair at Pinecrest. Both the colored and the white were welcome. The biggest stalk of cotton, the finest ear of corn, the best pickle, and the sweetest tasting jar of jelly were to be brought there. Everyone was guessing that David's wife would not be represented, because she did not belong to the Home Cooking Club. She never canned. In fact she never stayed in the house long enough for her to cook David a decent meal.

Rubye knew what they were saying about her. The white folks, of course, would have nothing to do with her, even though they did take time off to have their say. A drop of nigger blood was nigger to white folks in Texas. They never stopped to weigh one's soul. The colored folks treated her nice, but they openly showed her that they felt sorry for David. He should have married a dark brown-skinned gal from the south, someone who would have made a hand in the field. Then all of that extra hiring could be saved.

*Woman Picking Cotton*

"He wouldn't of lost his cotton in the east field if she'd throwed in there with him," she heard one woman tell another.

What David thought the young man kept to himself. He had grown depressingly silent. He and his wife hardly spoke a word a day now. Even at night they forgot to listen to the hoot owl say his silly ditty.

That last day before the fair opened Rubye tried to draw her husband into conversation as she took the noon meal from the stove to the small pine table across the room.

"Tomorrow, David, the fair starts. Aren't you going to take something?"

He shook his head. She could see tears in his eyes. He was undergoing some terrible emotion, she saw. Was he sorry he had married her?

"I've crossed three different roses and have discovered the prettiest rose I ever saw in my life. It is sort of an orange rose. The bush grows about four feet tall, and the blooms are as big as a saucer. I am taking that."

She started to tell him about her black rose, but he didn't seem to be listening, and so she retorted:

"I know all of Coonville is feeling sorry for you, and I can see you are even sorry for yourself now. If I don't make good with my roses this year, I'll quit and go home."

Still David did not reply.

"And this is the last word I'll say to you until I find out tomorrow."

David's black eyes held resentment for his wife.

"I darsent say a word or I'll git my head skinned."

"How can you say that! I only try to show you the sensible side of things, and you act like a child, believing all of Coonville rather than me."

"The onliest way we have of knowin' a thing is to take it from experience."

"Then we would never progress. There is always someone to start things first."

"Then why in the devil did it have to be my wife! Yo color is enough to make folks take notice to yo. Why couldn't yo have been like others of our race? Why did yo have to try and show us a lot of white folks' notions?"

Rubye rose from the table. It was all so useless. Well, she would go on with her roses this fall, and then leave David. She could never make him happy. They were as different as a pea and a bean. But why did that ache in her heart grow worse upon considering such a thing as leaving him? He had stopped loving her; he thought her a failure as a wife.

(*Continued on page* 59)

# Negro Labor in Public Housing

## By Clarence R. Johnson

***This address delivered before the Southwestern Labor Conference at San Antonio, Texas, December 4, 1940, tells of the efforts to get a square deal for skilled Negro labor on U. S. housing projects***

AS Negroes and as workers we are gravely concerned with the problem of housing. For many years now there has been an acute shortage of decent shelter available to all people of low income. In our case, this shortage has been all the more acute; social barriers, superimposed upon economic handicaps, have made the living conditions of Negroes among the most wretched in this nation.

To improve housing conditions, Congress passed the United States Housing Act of 1937 which established the United States Housing Authority. This Act proposed, first, to eradicate slums and provide "decent, safe, and sanitary dwellings for families of low income" and, second, to reduce unemployment through the stimulation of business activity. In view of his living conditions and the extent of his unemployment, it was evident from the outset that any realistic efforts to carry out the objectives of this program would necessarily include the Negro. Moreover, both the leadership and the masses of Negroes were keenly aware of these conditions and have been among the foremost supporters of the Government's public housing program. Such organizations as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Urban League, the National Negro Business League, and the National Negro Congress have endorsed this program. Negro membership has been represented in other organizations such as the CIO, the AF of L, the YMCA, and the YWCA which likewise support public housing.

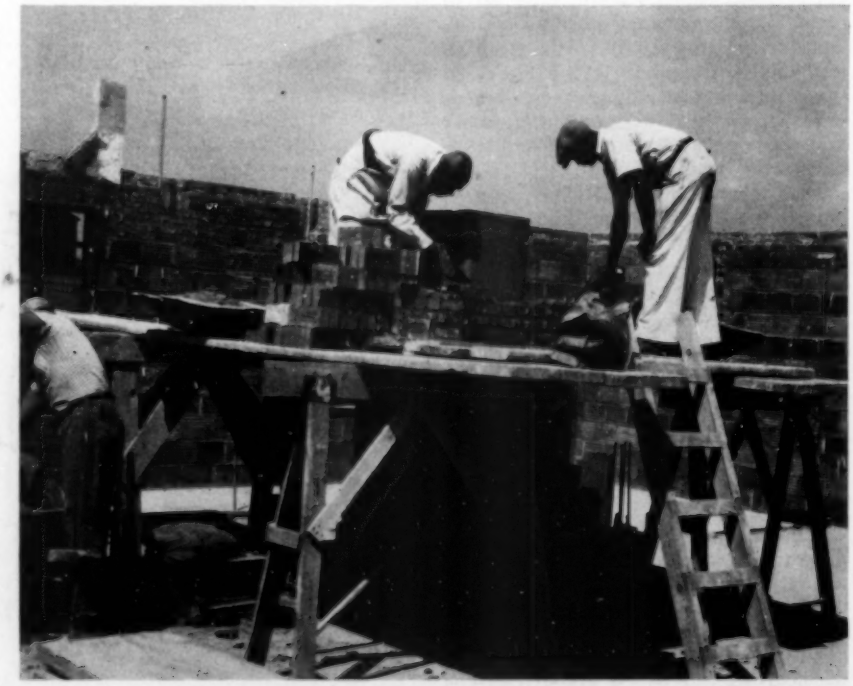
This article, however, is concerned primarily with the participation of Negro labor in the construction of these new homes. In order to understand the share Negroes have had in the Government's public housing program, it is necessary to review briefly the nature and structure of this program. In accordance with the terms of the United States Housing Act of 1937, the administration of the public housing program is decentralized. That is, it is a program jointly executed by the United States Housing Authority and by Local Housing Authorities. The responsibility for initiating, developing, and managing projects rests with the Local Authorities. The United States Housing Authority provides financial assistance and technical and professional advice. The Government, through the USHA, provides 90 per cent of the development costs of each project. In addition, annual contributions are made in order to keep the rents within the reach of low-income families.

In the execution of this program, the USHA has laid down certain fundamental policies and procedures for the guidance of Local Housing Authorities. These policies and procedures cover such phases of development as site selection, labor policy, rentals and management problems. The cooperation of the Local Housing Authority with these policies and procedures facilitates the development of the program.

### Equitable Employment

Among the policies laid down by the USHA is one providing for equitable employment of Negro labor. There is an additional policy recognizing labor's right to collective bargaining through representatives of its own choice. These two policies are of equal importance and the priority of one over the other is not recognized by the USHA; rather the USHA maintains that there is nothing mutually exclusive in these policies. It is possible and highly desirable that both be worked out jointly. That is to say, the USHA desires the best working conditions possible to be maintained in the construction of all projects and full recognition of the rights of collective bargaining. Further, in the employment of labor, it seeks to avert discrimination based upon race, color, or creed. These objectives may most readily be attained through the full cooperation of the unions in not restricting membership or work opportunities because of race or color.

In initiating a project, each Local Authority is subject to terms and conditions which include the following stipulation: "The Local Authority will require that there shall be no discrimination because of race, creed, or political affiliations in the employment of persons for work on USHA—aided projects."



*Bricklayers on Lakeview Project, USHA, Buffalo, N. Y.*

In order to give effect to this requirement, insofar as it may affect Negro employees on construction, it is provided that the Local Authority shall insert in all construction contracts a provision that payment to Negro skilled and unskilled labor of certain percentages of the amount paid under the contract for such labor shall be considered as prima facie evidence that the contractor has not discriminated against Negro labor. The percentages used are those of Negro skilled and unskilled building construction laborers employed in the particular city, as reflected by the last census.

This requirement lays down the general non-discrimination principle to which the USHA is committed. The responsibility of executing this policy lies primarily with the Local Authority. The essence of this clause, together with a definite stipulation as to the percentage of Negro labor, is incorporated in contracts which Local Authorities let to the building contractors. A similar procedure, designed to assure equitable employment for Negro labor, was developed by Dr. Robert C. Weaver for the Housing Division of the Public Works Administration in 1934 when he was Adviser on Negro Affairs in the Department of Interior.[1] It was an effective instrument in securing for Negro workers wages totaling $3,116,000 in the construction of public housing projects developed by the Public Works Administration Housing Division in 21 cities.

Now, as we have learned from bitter experience in many fields and as Mr. Justice Black pointed out in a recent Supreme Court decision, it is not enough simply to proclaim a noble sentiment. The benefits written into laws and regulations "must be given—not merely promised." Non-discrimination regulations must be implemented by men of good-will who desire to see these policies carried out. Officials of the USHA in Washington do not expect to see their policies operate automatically. For that reason, various specialized divisions have been set up within the Authority to cooperate with Local Housing Authorities in effecting USHA policy. Two of these units are immediately concerned with the policy of Negro labor. They are the Division of Labor Relations and the Office of Racial Relations. It is the duty of these two divisions to cooperate with Local Authorities in every way possible to see that the policies are effected.

### Contractors Pledged

There are others who have obligations in regard to the fulfilment of these stipulations. There are, first, the contractors who are pledged by terms of their contract to pay stipulated minimum percentages of their payrolls to Negro skilled and unskilled labor; second, it is the obligation of the referral agency not to discriminate against Negro workers when asked to supply men for construction work; third, it is the obligation of the Negro building trades workers to make consistent effort to get into the unions and to maintain their membership; and finally, the entire Negro community must insist upon an equitable share of this employment which is paid for out of public funds—funds for which all persons in the country are taxed regardless of race, color, or creed.

The need for the Negro community to be aware of its rights and to insist upon the fulfilment of them cannot be too strongly emphasized. When all these parties are equally faithful in fulfilling their obligations, the minimum percentages are readily met. But that is not always the case. Sometimes it is the Local Authority which is indifferent or negligent; sometimes the contractors seek to evade their obligations; sometimes organized labor is disinclined to go along with this provision; sometimes Negro workers neglect to join the unions which are open to them; and sometimes the Negro community is uninformed or apathetic.

In some quarters, fear has been expressed lest a stipulation for a minimum percentage turn out to be a maximum. That this has not been the case in all instances is indicated by the fact that in the construction of a number of projects these minimum percentages have been greatly exceeded. Indeed, in New Orleans the percentage was doubled, and in Daytona Beach, Florida, more than tripled. Minimum stipulations were exceeded in Memphis by 82 per cent; in Pensacola, Florida, by 67 per cent; in Dayton, Ohio, by 125 per cent; and in Chicago by 212 per cent. In these and other instances, the non-discrimination percentage clause has served as a focal point for a cooperative enterprise of local housing officials, building contractors, trade unions, and Negro workers with resultant beneficial racial and public relations.

However, the picture everywhere has not been so impressive. In the construction of a project in a certain southern city the unions presented a stone wall against the employment of skilled Negro workers. Consequently, the minimum percentage stipulated was not met. Similar difficulties in other cities have prevented Negro workers from obtaining their just share of employment.

(*Continued on page* 61)

[1] Robert C. Weaver, "An Experiment in Negro Labor," *Opportunity*, October 1936, pp. 295–298.

RIGHT, *Carpenter on Lakeview Project, Buffalo, N. Y.*

LEFT, *Negro and white carpenter working on Kingsboro Houses, New York City Housing Authority*

# One True Love

## By Marita Bonner

***Everything was all set for Sam and Nora to marry, when suddenly she was inspired to become a lawyer like the stately lady who had dinner one night with her employers. So to Sam's distress she entered night classes at City College***

WHEN Nora came through the swinging doors between the kitchen and the dining room with the roast, she was just a butter-colored maid with the hair on the "riney" side hurrying to get through dinner so she could go to the show with the janitor's helper, Sam Smith.

By the time Nora had served dessert, though, she had forgotten the show, forgotten Sam—forgotten everything but this: she was going to be a lawyer!

"They" had had company to dinner. ("They" in Nora's family were a Mr. and Mrs. This is not their story—so they are merely "They").

Company came often enough, but this time everything had been different.

"We are having a noted lawyer to dinner tonight, Nora" Mrs. had said.

Nora had expected a bay window, side-chop whiskers and a boom-boom voice.

When she backed through the door with the roast she saw sitting at the table in the guest's place, a woman. She had been beautifully but simply dressed in black velvet: her hair was cut short, worn brushed up in curls: every inch of her had been smart and lovely.

"This must be the lawyer's wife. Maybe be couldn't git here!"

But then "they" began talking. "Is your law practice as heavy as it was two years ago or do you devote more time to lecturing?" he asked.

"We hear you've been pleading at the Supreme Court!" 'she' cut in.

Nora nearly gaped.

This was the lawyer!

All through dinner she noted how nicely the lawyer ate, how pleasant her voice was when she spoke—how direct her eyes were when she looked at you.

"I'm going to get in some kind of school and be a lawyer, too!" Nora declared to the dishes as she washed them.

A knock at the back door cut into her thoughts.

Nora opened it and Sam bristled in.

"Why ain't you through? It's quarter to nine!"

"Whyn't you say good-evenin' and ask me how I feel?" Nora shot back at him. "You always act so ignorant!"

"What you got to talk so mean to me for? Ain't you glad to see me?"

"Can't say that I am if you always going to act so ignorant and degrading!"

"De—who?? S'matter with you, Nora?"

"Nuthin' cept I'm tired and I'm not going to be bothered going to no show tonight!"

"Well who—!" Sam staggered back from the choice of two words to follow his who: "cares" and "wants", decided he did not want to use either. "Well, good night, then!" he finished instead. "Maybe Sadie Jones would like to see a show!"

"Maybe so! She's your kind! Two ignorants together!" Nora flashed back at Sam.

"And maybe I don't need to come back here no more! I won't be seeing you!"

Nora did not even turn around to close the door after Sam. He had to close it himself.

Now Sam was a runty, bowlegged dark brown janitor's helper with a shiny scalp on which his hair grew in kinked patches.

That is what Sam was to the world.

And Sam was just that to Nora, too.

But to Sam, Nora was elegant and beautiful and more desirable than anything ever had been to anyone at anytime.

His, "Maybe I don't need to come back here no more!" frightened him.

Nora forgot it.

He had said it on Wednesday.

He stayed awake all Wednesday night, all Thursday night—all Friday night—hearing himself say over and over again: "Maybe I don't need to come back here no more!"

Suppose Nora thought he really meant just that!

Suppose Nore would never see him any more!

By Saturday morning, his eyes were so red it upset your stomach just to look at him.

"You ain't taking to drink, is you Sam?" the head janitor asked. "Cause if you is, then I needs another helper 'stead of you!"

"Naw I ain't drinking! Don't feel good!"

"Take a good physic! Do something! You look right bad—!"

Sam had said "Maybe I won't be seeing you any more" on Wednesday.

So Saturday night he bought a box of flour water and cocoa chocolates and came and knocked humbly on Nora's back door.

"Want to go to the show?" he asked anxiously as Nora opened the door. "They got that 'Kiss in the Dark' down to the Dream World."

"I don't mind," Nora answered mildly. "I have a lot of things to talk over with you!"

Sam's heart turned completely over. "You mean we—going to get—you going to give up working here and we going to get married? That guy keeps telling me he'll rent them two rooms on Rommy Street for twenty dollars and Levack's got some swell new furniture real cheap!"

Sam was breathless.

Nora was not listening to him. She knew vaguely that Sam was talking so she merely waited until his voice ceased before she began to tell him what was in her mind.

"I've enrolled in the night classes at the City College! I'm taking law!"

"You taking law! How come you taking law?"

"I mean I'm going to study to be a lawyer!"

"You ain't! When we going to get married?"

"I been telling you never! I got to get some education first anyhow!"

"Aw you don't need no education! You know enough to get along with me!"

"Aw Sam! Wait'll I get my hat on!"

As they walked toward the town center, Nora gossiped a bit, "They" surely was having a terrible fuss tonight! She really cussed and damned him off the boards!"

"Yeah? What's the trouble?"

"Oh, she went down town and tried to buy up the stores and he got to hollering but she out-cussed him! I don't see why they don't get along lovely! Everything so lovely in their home and he and she both educated."

"What make you talk so much 'bout this education business now? That

ain't what makes a man and woman git on together!"

"Aw Sam you so ignorant! If you are educated you know how to do everything just right all the time."

"Everything like gettin' along with a husband? Naw! You got to love folks! A guy really got to love a girl so he kin pass by the beer gardens and the hot mamas and the sheeny what wants him to lay a dollar on a suit and a watch and a diamond and a God knows-what-all—and bring the pay check home to her so they kin go in on it together!"

"Aw pay checks ain't everything!"

"And edjucation ain't everything! You got to love folks more than books!"

"And more than money!"

"Yeah! You got to love folks more than everything to git along and live fifty years with 'em!"

"Who said anything 'bout staying married fifty years?"

"Me!" Sam retorted stoutly. "My grandma did and I'm going to too!"

"You ain't going to do nothing your grandmother didn't do! That's ignorant!"

They reached the theater and no conclusion to the argument, so they went in.

Nora kicked off her shoes and munched chocolates and lived the picture. She felt comfortable and happy in a remote way that there was somebody with whom she could talk and argue good-naturedly—someone who knew enough to pass you his handkerchief at the cry parts.

She was glad—dimly—about all this.

What gave her feelings a real edge was that Monday night she was going to her first class at City College to study law.

City College was not particularly glad to receive Nora.

They endured a few colored students there but they had always been men—men whose background of preparation made professors and students of the lesser type, keep their sneers under cover.

But after it was seen that Nora got her superlatives mixed and "busted" when she should have "broken" and "hadn't ought to" come out when she meant "should not have"—quite a few sneers came out in the open.

People like to place you and your desires and tastes where they think your particular color and hirsute growth belong. They do not like to feel that Something-greater-than—themselves can give you the feel for the ermine and satin of living, the air for silver services and a distinct love of beauty that sets you quietly aloof—truly poised beyond the rough wood of living.

If they are above you—culturally—sometimes they shower sneers down at you, forgetting all the while that the thick coats of culture which surround them began once with one coat—thinly applied — sometime — somewhere — on their own family tree.

If they are below you—culturally—they try to stone you to death—sneer at you until you reach the point where you gladly smother all your ideas and ideals and crawl into a protective shell of sameness so that the mediocre mob will let you alone.

Nora had a touch of this something that made her struggle to get beyond a stove, a sink, a broom and a dust-mop and some one else's kitchen.

She worked hard at her books. She stayed up late to struggle with books full of pages that she had to read ten times over to even begin to get a glimmer of sense from them.

Professors demand more than a glimmer of information. They want things presented as they are and a bit more grafted on to it to show you are really getting an education.

Came the mid-year exams.

Nora snapped at Sam—burnt two steaks and had to buy a third one out of her own pocket one night—trying to untangle torts and contracts. Haggard with overwork and bewildered with subjects for which no preparatory steps had ever been laid in her, Nora flunked all her examinations.

Sam came one Sunday night to carry her over to the colored section of town for a special celebration.

Nora met him at the back door and began to cry.

"They flunked me, Sam! I didn't pass! No need to go celebrating."

"You mean those old fools didn't give you no good mark? Much studyin' and stewin' and strivin' and worryin' and stayin' up nights as you did? S'matter with them folks? I bet if I'se to go down there they'd pass you or sumpin!"

Nora's anger flared: "Why you always have to talk so ignorant, Sam? You can't do nothing! I didn't know enough to pass, that's all."

"Taint no need to bellow at me all the time! I'clare you got to feelin' right important since you got your feet inside of that City College! Good enough for you! You bound to fail! You too bigotty!"

"You get out of here! You no kind of friend! Rejoicing at my downfall!"

"Wouldn't fall down—if you's a married me 'stead of learnin' law all the time!"

"Don't need your love! I can lean on law and be a lawyer too if I wants too, Mr. Sam Smith!"

"Well go on leaning on your busted crutch, then!"

"Aw go on home Sam! My head's achin fit to bust!"

Sam backed out in a huff.

When he came back the next night and knocked at the door no one answered.

The kitchen was dark.

"Gone to bed! Still mad! Let her stay mad!" Sam growled as he left.

The next night he came again and no one opened the door.

Sam did not come back for two whole days.

When he knocked at the door a strange colored woman opened it.

"Where's Nora?" Sam gasped in surprise.

"Nora? Oh you mean the maid what was here? Oh she sick!"

"Sick?" Sam shouted and bounded into the kitchen. "Where she at? Whyn't nobody tell me?"

"Who you anyhow?"

"I'm the man what's going to marry huh! Marry Nora! Where she at?"

"Well don't yell so and don't come running in here that-a-way! She ain't here! She in some hospital. Wait'll I ask the lady."

When the woman came back to the kitchen Sam was already running down the back stairs!

"She got pneu-monyer in the City Hospital," the woman called down the stairs after him. "And you might have shut the door if you couldn't wait."

Sam tore up the gangway between the buildings and hired the biggest taxi lurking in front of the apartment house where they worked.

"Steppin' out for a big night, Boy?" the driver jibed as he pushed down the meter.

"I'm going to City Hospital to get my wife—what is going to be—. Got to bring her home and take care of her!"

It took a while to find Nora. She was in a public ward somewhere and since pneumonia cases were coming in at that particular season faster than the registrar could list them, no one could locate her for a full half hour.

Beads of real agony dropped from Sam's face when the nurse showed him the elevators.

He found the ward.

And he found a white screen around Nora's bed.

He could not believe this grey-faced woman who lay panting—panting was Nora. Her nostrils flared wide—too wide. Her teeth stuck deep in her lower lip and her eyes stared straight at nothing.

If "they" had said a little more—if someone had said that they would pay for Nora—she would not have been shoved aside and forgotten in a public ward.

( *Continued on page* 58)

# THIS MONGREL WORLD

**A Review by James W. Ivy**

***SEX AND RACE: Volume I, The Old World. By J. A. Rogers. New York: J. A. Rogers Publications, 37 Morningside Avenue, 1940. 290 pp. Illustrated. $3.00.***

I don't think any intelligent reader will want to miss this book, for it is an irresistible blend of enjoyment and enlightenment, of provocativeness and brilliant writing, of curious facts and humorous insight. It is a "saga of miscegenation" throughout the ages, rich in its historical background, and fully documented. Rogers gives proof for every statement he puts down. It is a beautiful book with sixty-three full-page illustrations, many of them rare portraits of famous people, an appendix of notes on the illustrations, and another illuminating appendix on "Black Gods and Messiahs." The author's erudition is truly amazing. Rogers seems to have read just about everything that has ever been written on the Negro in the major European tongues. And the amount of labor which has gone into his researches in America, Europe, and Africa is really astounding. For he blends the keen observations of the seasoned traveler with the patient research of the savant. This first volume (another volume is projected on miscegenation in the New World) is devoted to race mixing in Europe, Asia, and Africa. So far as I know this is the first book of its kind in any language, and the facts which Rogers has dug up are truly amazing.

## Tabooed Topic

The story of miscegenation (and please remember that whites almost always use the word to mean the interbreeding of Negroes and whites) is one of the never-told tales of history and one of the most curious. In a country like the United States where miscegenation has been rife for centuries the curious reader will search our large libraries in vain for any authentic information on the subject. It is a subject that is almost never written about, except by a few cloistered professors who gingerly side-step all the issues and facts with their academic disapproval. Let some enterprising journalist hint in the public prints that such and such a famous American has Negro blood and everyone is in a great dither wanting to tar-and-feather the poor fellow for libelling his countryman. Let some one hint that Alexander Hamilton was tar-brushed, or refer to the Negroid Browning, and he will have a host of pundits proving by nothing more weighty than rodomontade that the poor fellow must be out of his wits to even suggest such a heresy. It does not seem to have occurred to anyone, however, that throughout history wherever two races have lived in close proximity to each other they have mingled their blood. And why should Americans regard themselves as human freaks in this respect?

One of the first wholesale examples of miscegenation in history is found in Egypt. The ancient Egyptians were originally Negritos, but the infiltration of white blood gradually changed them into a typically mulatto people. But few Egyptologists are willing to admit the fact. They pretend, contrary to all the evidence, that the Egyptians were a white folk. They will classify a Charles W. Chesnutt as Negro and a Thotmes III as white, despite the fact that the latter is pure black, as are many Pharaohs: Akhenaton, Neb-Maat-Ra, Nectanebo I, and many others. Rogers neatly disposes of this fiction by producing pictures of the Egyptian type, and mulatto types they are with their Negroid features, frizzled hair, and full lips. Herodotus, who visited Egypt, always refers to them as being black-skinned, but our ethnologists had much rather rely on the dubious testimony of skulls, thigh bones, etc., than the direct testimony of an eyewitness. With the absorption of foreign blood the Egyptians gradualy differentiated themselves into four "races": the Rot, depicted on the monuments as a reddish-brown mulatto; the Nehusi, unmixed blacks; the Namu, a yellow-skinned group; and the Temehou, the so-called Nordics. And it is usually these latter that Egyptologist like to take as the typical Egyptian type.

## Tracing Negro Blood

But Rogers does not stop with the Negro blood in Egypt: he traces the Negro blood in Greece, in Rome, in Carthage, in China, in Japan, in Turkey, and in all the major European countries. He notes famous men of the ancient world who were Negroes: Clitus, the favorite of Alexander the Great; Bilal, the honored friend of Mahomet; Antar, the great Arabic poet; and Kafur, the ruler. He notes the Greek and Roman tradition that Sappho was black. He calls our attention to the ruins of a Negrito civilization unearthed by Dieulafoy at Susa in Persia. He reminds us of the Jewish and Moslem tradition that Moses was black. Coming closer to our own time, he gives a list of famous South Africans of Negro descent. He likewise has some titillating morsels on the Negro blood in the aristocratic and royal houses of Europe. And some of this information is right out of *Burke's Peerage* and Berry's *Encyclopedia Heraldica.*

Gustavus IV of Sweden was a Negro, and Rogers has not only the documents, but a picture to prove it. John VI of Portugal was Negro too, and his wife, says the Duchess d'Abrantes, had brown skin and "dry wolly" hair. Alessandro Medici, Duke of Florence, had a Negro mother; Maria-Theresa, Queen of France, had a black daughter, supposedly by her dwarf Nabo. The black Angello Solliman had a white baron for a son-in-law, the Baron von Feuchtersleben. The American Army has one Negro general, but the Negro-hating Napoleon had eight; one of whom was General Alexander Dumas, father of Dumas, *père,* the novelist. Most Americans are supposed to know that Dumas, *père,* was Negro, but how many know that the following Frenchmen are mulattoes? Paul du Chaillu, the explorer; Paul Gaugin, the painter; Ambroise Vollard, the art collector; Colette, the writer; and Maurice Donnay, the writer and academician. How many people know that the famous geographer Elisée Reclus had a Negro wife and several mulatto daughters? Or that Karl Marx's daughter married the Cuban mulatto, Paul LaFarge? These are only a few of the facts which Rogers has uncovered in his amazing study. Even Negrophobic England has noble families with black limbs and twigs on its family tree. What became of England's 20,000 Negro slaves he sardonically queries? How explain the Moor on the coat-of-arms of the Marquess of Londonderry? "McRitchie points out that the best proof of the Negro origin of some of the noble British families are 'the thick-lipped Moors' on their coat-of-arms."

## Negroid Aristocrats

Rogers also shows that the more aristocratic the European family the more likely is it to have Negro blood. Two things explain this: the relative absence of racial bias among the nobility, and the aristocratic fad of keeping blacks dwarfs and favorites. Jose Moreno Villa has recently made a study of this practice in the Spanish court in *Locos, enanos, negros y niños palaciegos, siglo XVI y XVII* ("Buffoons, Dwarfs, Negroes and Palace Children of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries"). Many paintings of the eighteenth century picture aristocratic women with their black favorites. Rogers has reproductions (Plate LXI) showing the Princess de la Largilière and the Duchess of Portsmouth with their Negro favorites. The number of aristocratic men who kept Negro mistresses is of course, legion; and many of them had *bambini neri* by these sable Aspasias, and recognized them too.

Rogers also devotes considerable attention to the sexual fascination which Negroes exert over many whites. After all sex is the index to miscegenation. I commend Chapter 14 to the earnest attention of all whites who are repelled at the idea of black-white unions. The central facts, however, because of American prudery, Rogers has had to leave in the French of Dr. Jacobus X. Dr. Jacobus' conclusion is in essence that of Paolo Mantegazza that Negroes are "powerful lovers" (*potentissimi amatori*). Further than this I cannot go, but the curious reader can find the details in Rogers' book. Rogers also emphasizes the fact that the primitive, unspoiled African has no taste for white flesh. White women, contrary to the general American belief about the African's penchant for ofay squaws, the African regards as ugly. White men, on the other hand, once they develop a taste for black meat, lose all desire for their own women. For an elaboration of this consult Royer's *La maîtresse noire.*

## Negroes on the Rhine

Rogers also neatly disposes of the German myth of the "black menace on the Rhine," pumped up by German propaganda at the time of the French Occupation in order to frighten prejudice-ridden Englishmen and Americans. It was more a case of the *Weiber* raping the Senegalese than the other way round. Despite Hitler and the Nazis the German people exhibit little color prejudice toward Negroes. In fact there is a large strain of African blood in the country but the Nazis talk about this, if at all, *pianissimo.*

In a short review it is not possible to point out all the many good things in this book. I have made no mention of the fact that the earliest known inhabitants of Europe were Negritos. Nor have I called attention to the fact that there is sound proof, much of it adduced by Rogers, that the Negro was really the founder of civilization and that the autochthons of all countries were Negritos. Nor have I mentioned the many interesting facts which Rogers has collected about the black messiahs and gods of the New and Old Worlds.

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# Official Answers Chicago Fair Critic

## By Frank Marshall Davis

HAS THE CRISIS magazine, one of the few Duskymerican publications that could be depended upon for reasonably accurate conservatism, turned to sensationalism?

And if it has not, what was the reason for printing the misinformation entitled "75 Years of Negro Progress" in the January, 1941 issue?

The author, Selma Gordon . . . is not entirely unknown to me as well as to others connected with the American Negro Exposition. She was in a position, therefore, to obtain facts. Instead, however, she apparently rambled among the disgruntled for her tid-bits of false knowledge and found in you a ready customer.

Let us get down to specific statements.

### Grant Statement False

Referring to the Illinois grant of $75,000 and the federal grant of a like sum, Miss Gordon declares, "The Government and State authorities decided how the $150,000 was to be apportioned and to whom, and there was no deviation." That is untrue. Only the State, which made its appropriation in July, 1939, earmarked its funds. The federal bill, passed only a few weeks before the Exposition opened on July 4, did not state what was to be done with this $75,000. Its expenditure was left solely to the discretion of the Federal Exposition Commission, appointed by President Roosevelt, and the Exposition Authority.

In the same paragraph, Miss Gordon says, "If the total allotted to be spent at a certain date for certain departments, such as labor, materials, etc., was not completely used by the deadline set, that balance could not be applied against the total remaining or any other department. Apparently, the sum designated for each department was used up well in advance of the deadline set." Another falsehood. The state allotment was to be used only for Coliseum rental, traveling expenses, printing, construction of exhibit booths, pre-Exposition headquarters rental and a basic staff expected to work from July, 1939, through September 9, 1940. Funds for advertising, assembling exhibits, construction of exhibits, murals, dioramas, etc., overhead, salaries for a full staff, etc., had to come from other sources and that was where the un-earmarked federal appropriation proved a lifesaver. Instead of "the sum for each department being used up well in advance of the deadline set," approximately $25,000 specified for salaries was returned to the state since, due to the failure of the late Governor Henry Horner to appoint a State Commission until December, 1939, the basic staff could not work from July, 1939, through September 9, 1940.

### Error on Washington

Referring to James W. Washington, founder of the Exposition, she says, "He was pushed completely out of the picture so far as any actual management was concerned, was given an honorary title and a small salary which kept him quiet . . . Wendell Green, member of the Civil Service Commission, was put in charge. Officially, he held no position in the Exposition and received no salary . . . Mr. Green appointed as president, Truman Gibson, Jr., and as treasurer, A. W. Williams . . . They appointed an advisory board among whom was A. N. Fields of the *Pittsburgh Courier* and Claude Barnett of the Associated Negro Press."

So many errors here it's hard to know where to start. However, Mr. Washington was president of the Exposition Authority, the administrative body, traveled more than 60,000 miles in the interest of the Exposition, was given a special Founder's Day in August, and received a salary no lower than that given to other top executives. Wendell Green was never "put in charge." His official position was vice-chairman of the Exposition Commission of the State of Illinois, and he had no more power than any of the other 14 members. Mr. Gibson was never "president," instead holding the title of executive director. He was so named by the Exposition Authority which included Mr. Williams as secretary-treasurer and Mr. Barnett, the late L. L. Ferguson and Robert Bishop as members in addition to Messrs. Washington and Gibson. There was no "advisory board" and Mr. Fields was, instead, a member of the subordinate board of directors, and of the publicity committee.

### A.N.P. Got Nothing

Miss Gordon says the Associated Negro Press "Was alloted a sum for advertising and publicity purposes." That is news to this organization, since the ANP has yet to receive funds for this purpose, and carried little news of the Exposition in its releases to member papers. Instead, the Exposition set up its own publicity department which functioned independently of ANP.

Speaking of guides and other employees, she says, "Almost all of these girls were either school teachers or students on vacation, who did not need these $22.50 per week jobs." Unfortunately, some few school teachers were hired, but as for our Negro students, just when have they reached such a high economic plane that they "did not need" $22.50 per week jobs?

It was the aim of the Exposition to show what the race had achieved in 75 years in all fields. With butcher shops and grocery stores around us every day, it was felt that the time and money of the Exposition could be better spent in a general appraisal and evaluation of the Negro's progress along all fronts—its expressed purpose—rather than in glorifying Negro business alone. It was anticipated there would be unfavorable reaction in some quarters to this, as well as resentment shown by those persons who failed to obtain salaries for doing nothing, were not given key positions, or who were generally chronic knockers.

### Most Workers Negroes

Speaking of union labor, the Coliseum is what is known as a union house. Negro carpenters, etc., who labored to set up the Exposition, were union members and they far outnumbered white union workers who aided. The Exposition had more trouble with and threats from the Negro Musicians Union than from any white union.

Miss Gordon says "the $150,000 must have run out rather rapidly because most of the dioramas, posters and charts were done by the WPA . . . and the NYA." Again I say, none of the state funds could be used for this purpose, and by the time the federal $75,000 was appropriated and made available, most of this work was completed. Had this work been held up until the federal grant came through, it would not have been ready until the close of the Exposition. It so happened that the Exposition Authority obtained funds from other sources to purchase the raw materials for making these essentials which were then constructed or readied by the WPA and NYA.

### Negro Firm Unavailable

However, around 30,000 posters were printed at a commercial firm and around

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## DISCRIMINATION BANNED

Discrimination against Negro skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers on the extensive $281,000,000 defense housing program has been banned through an executive order issued by John M. Carmody, Federal Works Administrator.

Seeking to assure full participation of Negro workers in the employment phases of the huge construction program, Mr. Carmody, acting under the authority vested in the FWA Administrator by Section II of the Act of October 14, 1940, issued the following regulation under which all contracts must be prosecuted:

> "There shall be no discrimination by reason of race, creed, color or political affiliations in the employment of persons, qualified by training and experience, for work in the development of defense housing at the sites thereof."

At the same time, the FWA Administrator established machinery to implement the Agency's non-discrimination policy and to handle specific complaints growing out of possible violations. Copies of the regulation were sent to all contractors working on defense housing and the executive order was published in the Federal Register on Thursday, January 9.

Mr. A. J. Sarré, the Director of Personnel of the Federal Works Agency, and Mr. W. J. Trent, Jr., who is the Racial Relations Officer in that office, will give special attention to the enforcement of the regulation against discrimination in work on the defense housing program.

The vast defense housing program will be carried out under the direction of several agencies in the FWA. This program includes the construction of an undetermined number of dwelling units to be erected with the $150,000,000 appropriation authorized in the Lanham Act. A number of these projects are now under construction.

Thirty-two defense housing projects, containing 13,035 dwelling units, will be constructed by the United States Housing Authority at an estimated cost of more than $45,000,000 in contracts.

Other phases of the total defense housing program are being carried out by the Federal Works Agency. One is the construction of the bulk of the housing provided for in the War Department's share of the $100,000,000 housing allocation in the Second Supplemental Defense Appropriation Act. The Secretary of War recently allocated $45,700,000 of this sum to the FWA for housing projects for families of enlisted Army men and for married civilian Army personnel. Administrator Carmody designated the Public Buildings Administration as the agency to carry out this program. Under this designation the PBA will construct a minimum of sixty-eight projects.

### Relief in Chicago

The largest low-rent housing development for Negroes in the world received its first tenants in January when Chicago workmen finished the first houses of the Ida B. Wells Homes which are being built with United States Housing Authority funds.

Soon trucks and vans loaded with furniture began the job of moving 1,662 families from their old homes in the hemmed-in so-called "black belt" of the nation's second largest city to the site of the new project—an area of about 11 city blocks.

The neat houses in simple modern style—there are 125 separate structures in the huge development—will provide homes for thousands of people who are now forced to live in one of the worst slum areas of the country.

The Chicago "black belt" is a narrow area stretching southward from the Loop. In it live some 200,000 Negroes, 50,000 more than experts say the area could adequately house. Every year the situation has become worse since the Negro population is growing and at the same time business and commercial enterprises have been taking over property in the area formerly used for residential purposes. "Negro housing," according to Horace R. Cayton writing in the magazine Social Action, "is the number one explosive in the city of Chicago."

Although Negroes form Chicago's lowest income group, the rentals they must pay in the congested "black belt" homes are considerably higher, comparatively, than those that must be paid by members of other racial groups. In the USHA project the average rent will be $14.08 a month.

The development, built by the Chicago Housing Authority at a cost of $8,681,000 of which 90 per cent represents a USHA loan, is conveniently located near transportation lines, churches, and schools. The site itself is landscaped and provides recreational facilities and in addition it adjoins two parks.

The project bears the name of Mrs. Ida B. Wells, crusading editor and educator—one of the nation's first Negro women journalists.

*Head of a boy by Richmond Barthe*
*Photograph by Baxter Snark*

### Liberalizing the CCC

The War Department has forwarded instructions to the Commanding Generals of the nine Corps Areas authorizing them to employ Negro subalterns in the 150 colored Civilian Conservation Corps camps, it was announced today at the office of James J. McEntee, Director of the CCC.

"Negro reserve officers who are in inactive status and officers of the active reserve who fail to qualify for military duty, may be considered for vacancies in the officer personnel of CCC camps," the War Department announcement stated. "Negro educational advisers who have been on duty with the CCC and colored enrollees who have demonstrated their fitness will also be eligible for appointment as subalterns.

"At present there are two CCC companies, one in the Second Corps Area and one in the Third Corps Area, officered and commanded entirely by colored personnel. There is a single subaltern serving in the Fifth Corps Area and one in the Eighth Corps Area. Negro enrollees constitute about ten per cent of the CCC. In 150 camps all of the enrollees are colored. Some 70 other camps have one or more colored enrollees."

A colored educational adviser is on duty at each of the 150 colored CCC camps, Mr. McEntee said. In addition to these educational advisers, colored doctors and chaplains have been assigned to CCC duty during the past five years.

### Gen. Davis to Fort Riley

The War Department has announced the assignment of Brigadier General Benjamin O. Davis to the 4th Cavalry Brigade at Fort Riley, Kansas. His brigade will be composed of the 9th and 10th Regiments of Cavalry. He is at present on duty with the National Guard in New York City.

# From the Press of the Nation

## Editorial of the Month

### Five Too Many

***Chronicle*, Boston, Mass.**

THE number of recorded lynchings certainly declined during the year 1940, according to the statistics compiled and released by Tuskegee Institute. However, as the secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Walter White, has pointed out, the the fact that there appears to be only five recorded instances of that form of mob violence against the Negro people does not lessen the need for federal anti-lynching legislation. All progressive white and colored Americans, South as well as North, agree with Mr. White. That is why they support, with every resource at their command, the agitation for immediate passage of the Wagner-Capper-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill, which Congress has evaded. That is why, in New England, they continue to apprize their senators and congressmen, by personal letters and postcards as well as resolutions passed in mass meetings, that the very well-being of the nation as a democratic Republic depends on the efforts made to blot out that Barbarous pastime condoned by the same reactionaries who uphold the poll-tax system which deprives thousands of white as well as Negro Southerners of their Constitutional right to vote and hold office.

Americans should all highly resolve that the year 1941 should see the wiping out of lynching and all forms of mob violence through federal legislation, for that terrorism is congenial to the Fifth Column sympathizers with Hitlerism in our midst.

Democracy, as it was meant to be in America, is a good thing—a thing for which men have suffered and died. It is intended to offer freedom, opportunity and privileges to all the people. It is unselfish, without bias or prejudice.

But American democracy has come to hold an ironical aspect for the colored minority. This aspect has assumed large proportions in the current program of national defense as it affects the Negro citizen. Picture, if you can, the readiness, the eagerness of black men to do their share, even more than their share, to fight for their country. They want to be included in the factories, navy yards and armed forces of their country. But time and time again they are told "no place for Negroes" in this set-up, in this company, in this project. At the same time other citizens are being retained and provided for; they are being accepted as skilled workers and agents in preparing the country. The Negro stands on the sideline, in the role of the slave, the one who will be called only to do the drudgery and fool's work. Yet, he accepts the challenge whenever it comes.

Without appealing to the beliefs of any race in connection with this condition all of us must agree it is an ironical feature of the kind of life America seeks to preserve. This, it would be, if it affected any group of people. It is the big corroding factor that works to destroy democracy of the people. . . . Charleston, S. C., *Lighthouse and Informer*.

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Not in the whole realm of business is there a more soulless pursuit of profit than the housing afforded Negroes. For other people the price of a home, either by rental or sale, is based upon the cost of the land and its improvements. For Negroes it is upon their need. By libeling them with the charge that they cheapen property, pretty generally throughout the United States there has been built up a system that makes them live in a constricted area where demand is high and prices accordingly. . . . Kansas City, Mo., *Call*.

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King George's loyal black subjects in Jamaica are getting a new taste of democracy.

Governor A. F. Richards, who is virtual dictator, has had his stooge legislature (controlled by his appointees) pass new regulations "for defense" which come close to wiping out what little democracy is left in the island.

Any assemblage for whatever purpose can be dispersed by the police.

Any person who fails to move on when told or incites others to reassemble can be arrested without warrant.

All persons are forbidden to fly any banner, flag or emblem except that of the British plutocracy, or to have in their possession any firearms, knife, cutlass, stick, club, bludgeon, iron bar, stone or weapon or missle of any description.

An assembly consists of three or more persons, moving or stationary.

A public place is defined as any highway, street, public park or garden, sea beach, alley, passage or open space, whether or not the people have rented the space.

The new statutes are designed, of course, to halt the development of a labor movement and to keep down protest against the sorry economic and political conditions under which the people labor.

Ironically enough the British government says it is fighting for democracy! . . . Pittsburgh, Pa., *Courier*.

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The "Tulsan," the Santa Fe's silver meteor from Kansas City of Tulsa is the last word in service. In less than five hours it covers the 300 miles that trains only a short time ago took ten hours to chug over. No jolting, no rocking, no cinders. It's streamlined service.

As usual the Negro got his in the "streamlining." The coop that he occupies has five double seats, three adjustable and two non-adjustable. The conductor occupies two of the seats and the news vendor's compartment takes up one-fourth of the section. Built in quarters for the "crew" narrows it down to a perfect chicken coop.

Four Negroes boarded the train in Kansas City for Tulsa last night. Kansas City has no jim-crow law but the attendants ushered the Negroes to the front "to prevent disturbing them when they reached the line of Oklahoma." For five hours they stared through a door into the motor section of the train. For five hours they were jostled by the news vendor. A Negro woman who sought the rest room made her way into the quarters provided for the "crew."

They paid the same fares as the whites who nestled comfortable and snugly in other quarters of the streamlined "Tulsan." But when the train reached the line of Oklahoma the porter quickly drew a heavy curtain to separate the occupants of the "jim-crow" car from the other section of the train. On one side of the curtain sat a hill-billy with three weeks of beard, chewing his cud of tobacco. On the other side, cramped and uncomfortable, sat a comely Negro woman, cultured and dignified, a graduate of a leading white university. Both citizens of a democracy and both enjoying the "comforts" of the streamliner. . . . Tulsa, Okla., *Eagle*.

# Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

### Protest Negro Draftee Segregation

The N.A.A.C.P. protested on Dec. 23, the policy of the War Department calling up only white draftees until "camp facilities are available for Negro troops." Protest was based on a New York City order passing over colored draftees. Another protest was registered against all-white draft boards.

### U. S. Urged to End Employment Segregation

The U. S. Employment Service has been urged by the N.A.A.C.P. to abandon the practice of inquiring of prospective employers the racial identity of the workers desired, and to seek out Negro skilled workers to place on file precisely as such promotional work is done for war veterans.

### Fifty Dollar Prize

Dr. Ross Thalheimer of Baltimore, Md., had made possible a gift annually of fifty dollars to be given to the N.A.A.C.P. branch doing the most outstanding work during the year. It will be presented for the first time at the thirty-second annual Conference next summer in Houston, Texas.

*PANCAS, Nashville, Tennessee, Left to Right, Seated: Mr. Deerwood McCord, Miss Lorenzo Parker, Mrs. B. F. Cox, Dr. Eli Marks, Mrs. W. A. Beck. Standing: Miss Marie Mayberry, Mrs. W. H. Fort, Mr. J. Wesley Maney, Miss Mable McKay, Mr. W. W. Butler, Mrs. A. H. Martin, Mrs. W. S. Bridgeforth. The Nashville, Tennessee, Membership Campaign closed on January 2, 1941. Mr. W. J. Hale, Jr., was chairman of the campaign. Mrs. Daisy Lampkin, National Field Secretary, directed the campaign*

# New Directors of the Association Elected at 1941 Annual Meeting

*HOMER S. BROWN, Pittsburgh*

*EARL B. DICKERSON, Chicago*

*DR. O. CLAY MAXWELL, New York*

*S. JOE BROWN, Des Moines*

*THOMAS L. GRIFFITH, Los Angeles*

### Seek Removal of Prejudiced Draft Official

The N.A.A.C.P. has asked New York's Governor Lehman to remove Edward Warnke, chairman of Local Board No. 261, in Jamaica, N. Y., for making "vicious and slanderous" statements against Negroes in connection with the appeal of a case involving a Negro draftee.

### Memphis Terror

The Association has urged the Attorney General of the U. S. A. to bring forces to bear to investigate and stop the open terror being meted out to Negroes in Memphis, Tenn., by politicians and the local police force.

### 1940 Lynchings

The N.A.A.C.P. reported five lynchings for the year 1940, with ten others suspected of being lynched and still under investigation. In only one case was the victim accused of a sex offense. The annual score is: Georgia, 2; Alabama, 2; and Tennessee, 1. The Association is investigating those lynchings not "officially" reported. It reported a tendency of contemporary lynching "to go Underground."

### NAACP Protests Negro Sailors' Ousting

Charging that the U. S. Maritime Service is quietly adopting a policy of segregating Negroes to the role of mess attendants in its service by gradually excluding Negro seamen from jobs as firemen and coal passers, the Association has made vigorous protest to the interested authorities.

### Negro Remains Test Of Democracy

In his annual report Executive Secretary Walter White declared the American Negro to be the surest standard for testing our Government's oft-repeated assertion that American democracy gives full justice to all citizens of the U. S. A. He cited in his report the many victories the Association won during 1940, the long fight in Congress to pass an anti-lynching law, and the battle for equal opportunity in defense industries.

### Probes Color Bar In Venezuela

Prodded by the N.A.A.C.P., the State Department last month probed charges

that Venezuela was barring Negro and Chinese sailors from any ports of entry in that country.

### Association Defends Draft Objector

The Chicago and the National Office have joined in the defense of Ernest Calloway, educational director of the United Transport Service Employes of America (Red Caps) who was placed in Class No. 1 by his local draft board No. 81, although he asked exemption on account of conscientious scruples against serving in an Army discriminating against colored people. The draft board admitted the truth of the condition. Calloway protests the Board gave him no opportunity to present his case for exemption.

### Ask Knudsen's Company To Ban Jim Crow

William Knudsen, co-chairman with Sidney Hillman, of the President's four-man National Defense Board and former head of General Motors Corporation has been asked to use his influence to end widespread discrimination against Negroes in defense industry, especially the General Motors Corporation. Jobs have been promised at the Curtiss Wright airplane plant at Port Columbus, O., it is reported.

### New Anti-Lynching Bill Introduced

On January 3, Representative Joseph A. Gavagan of New York introduced the NAACP's anti-lynching bill. Five others were introduced at the same time. Chances of an anti-lynching law being enacted by this Congress are reported to be good.

### Sues War Chiefs for Air Corps Bar

Yancey Williams, member of the Washington, D. C. branch and student at Howard University has entered suit against War Secretary Henry L. Stimson, Chief of Staff George C. Marshall and others to compel his acceptance into the Air Corps to which no Negroes have ever been assigned. Williams is a qualified pilot. N.A.A.C.P. attorneys are cooperating in the case.

### Equal Salaries In Louisville

In mid-January the Louisville school board agreed to equalize the salaries of colored with white teachers beginning September, 1941. This is another victory for the N.A.A.C.P. Miss Valla Dudley Arrington, the complainant, was represented by Prentice R. Thomas, Louisville N.A.A.C.P. attorney, who was aided by Thurgood Marshall, special N.A.A.C.P. counsel.

### New Fight on Texas White Primary

In cooperation with the National office, the Texas state conference of N.A.A.C.P. branches launched another attack on the Texas "white primary." Complaint was filed in the U. S. District Court in Houston on January 15. Complainant is Sidney Hasgett, a qualified Negro who was denied the right to vote in the August, 1940 Democratic primaries.

## Youth Council News

The following letter was sent to the Fifth Avenue Omnibus Company in New York City in an effort to gain employment for Negroes in various capacities.

December 25, 1940

Fifth Avenue Omnibus Co.
605 West 132 Street
New York, N. Y.

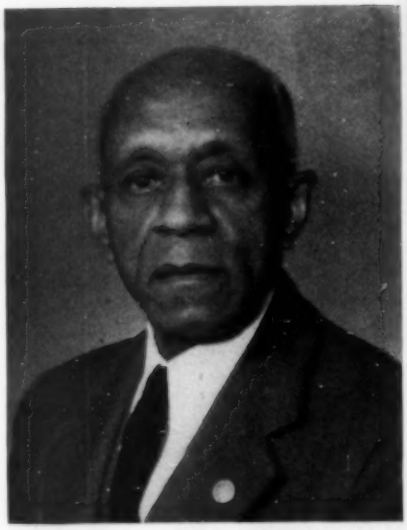
Gentlemen:

We understand that the proportion of Negroes employed in the "Fifth Ave. Omnibus Co." is far below that of the population of Upper Manhattan.

Our Council would appreciate your giving us some information regarding the employment of Negroes in your service.

1. In what capacity do you employ Negroes?
2. How many?
3. Why, up to the present time haven't you employed Negro drivers?
4. Isn't it true that the majority of

### Served 28 Years



*EDWARD JACKSON*

*At the recent annual meeting of the Cleveland, O., Branch, N.A.A.C.P., special tribute was paid to its Treasurer, Mr. Edward Jackson, for his 28 years consecutive service in that office, to which he was re-elected*

*Members of the Boston Youth Council, who sponsored an educational mass meeting in St. Mark Congregational church Sunday evening, November 17, 1940, at which the Editor of* THE CRISIS *spoke on "Negro Youth in a New World." Left to right: Arthur Lassiter, treasurer; Miss Coral Yancey; Miss Mildred Alexander, vice-president; Mr. Roy Wilkins, editor of* THE CRISIS; *Miss Barbara Dugger, who presided at the meeting; Mrs. Victor Bynoe, president; Miss M. Phyllis Mitchell, secretary; Attorney Ray W. Guild, president of the Boston branch N.A.A.C.P.*

the passengers in your Upper Manhattan route are Negroes?

5. What, if anything, are you doing to expand the opportunities for hiring Negro help?

The Independent Subways have employed Negroes and have benefited by their services. We see no reason why this plan can't work out with your Company.

Sincerely yours,

MORNINGSIDE YOUTH COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

This letter is evidence that we in New York too have our problems; that a situation exists which should be corrected if we are to get equal recognition for Negro employment.

---

The Youth Director plans a field trip to some of the mid-western States during February to acquaint himself personally with the various Youth Councils and College Chapters in that area. This will afford him an opportunity of personally meeting the various groups and working with them. Between ten and twelve stops are being planned which include groups in western New York, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana.

Also planned is a trip to southwestern areas, including Oklahoma, Texas and a part of Louisiana. This, no doubt, will take place in April.

Arrangements are now being made so that this project may be carried out to the greatest advantage. It is estimated that it will take about two years before all College Chapters and Youth Councils can be visited. The Youth Director is particularly interested in making as many personal visits as possible to acquaint himself personally with as many members of the organization as he can.

---

The Youth Department is sponsoring a National Negro Youth Week to be held in April, definite date to be announced later.

During this week nation-wide attention will be focused on the needs, aims, ambitions and desires of Negro youth. An extensive program has been worked out, including: a radio program; speakers bureau set up by College Chapters; tag days to finance the venture; and an employment survey project.

A very definite program will be shortly released to the Youth Councils and College Chapters. We are making every effort to have this first venture of this kind such a success that it may be an annual affair, looked forward to with keen desire for full participation.

The Association, through the Youth Department, vigorously protested the disqualification of Jim Coward from playing on the basketball team of the New York University against Georgetown and North Carolina.

What makes the situation more acute is that the policy of discrimination at NYU, as far as the Negro and sports is concerned, seems to be steadily growing worse. About 94% of the students and faculty at NYU have protested this action and yet the policy of the university persists. North Carolina has evidenced a willingness to play against Coward on their home court.

Hence, the following protest was sent by the Youth Director.

"The disqualification of Jim Coward from the basketball team of New York University constitutes a challenge to all youth of the world. We want fair play and real sportsmanship. Youth demands unanimity of opinion and action in this regard.

"Youth, and especially Negro youth, are experiencing times of crises which exhibit a challenge to progressive thought and action. Coward was declared ineligible by means of machinated evidence and courses of events. 94% of the students and faculty of the university are fighting for his reinstatement and guarantee of playing against Georgetown and North Carolina.

"Coward must be allowed to participate in the face of the opposing power of reaction. As in the case of Leonard Bates, NYU furthers jim-crowism and lily-white philosophy. We most vehemently condemn such action.

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The KEOKUK, Iowa, Youth Council have made formal application for a Charter. The officers of this group are: Miss Alberta Bates, president; Miss Carolyn Triplett, vice president; Miss Lenna Shaninghouse, secretary and Miss Jessie Scott, treasurer. . . . Newly elected officers of the HOUSTON, Texas, Youth Council are: Miss Rosie Neyland, president; Roy Hopkins and Theodore Johnson, vice presidents; Hazel McCullough, secretary; Cleo Oliver, assistant secretary, and Margaret Misher, treasurer. . . . Mr. James T. Wright of Howard University and Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the Annual Student Conference was recently honored in inclusion in "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges."

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**Speaks on Youth in a Democracy**

Miss Blanche Wells, member of the Newark, New Jersey Youth Council was declared winner in the state-wide high school oratorial contest held at the South River High School. She was the only colored girl to compete in the finals and was successful over nine white speakers.

**Protests Memphis Terror**

Under the leadership of Professors Marquerite Bicknell and Collins George the organization of a College Chapter at Le Moyne started with the visit of Mrs. Daisy Lampkin of the city.

The time for the campaign was strategic, for under the leadership of Commissioner Boyle the Negro citizens of Memphis were undergoing more humiliation and subjugation than at any time since the race riots at the turn of the century.

An apparently harmless situation growing out of the attempt of Negro Republicans to stage pre-election rallies developed overnight into a tense and dangerous one. Negro citizens were unwarrantedly searched and several Negro business establishments were forced to close because all customers entering and leaving were searched. Threats of running several Negro newspaper men out of town were published in the white dailies along with the names of several other prominent citizens.

The organization has sent several letters of protest to the officials concerning the unwarranted searching and it is partially to their credit that it has now stopped.

A unity of Negro spirit arose from this occurrence which was evidenced on the campus by the joining of more than 200 students to the Council.

The success of the organization is attributable to the capable help of the advisors, Professors Bicknell and George. The Spring membership campaign is in full swing and by the end of the semester we should have 100% membership among the student body. Our financial goal of $500 should be attained with each one of the ten committees pledged to raise $50.

Memphis Youth Organize! From this organization shall come the leaders who will guide our people to a new high as citizens of Memphis, Tennessee, the gateway to the South.

**AGENTS WANTED!**

***The Crisis* wants an active agent in every community.**

**Branches and Youth Councils of the Association are requested to recommend an agent in every community where *The Crisis* is not now being sold.**

**For particulars write to *The Business Manager***

# Branch News

**California:** The Long Beach branch unveiled their charter December 29 at the Grants Chapel A.M.E. church before one of the largest audiences ever assembled by the branch. Attorney Thomas L. Griffith was the principal speaker, and was introduced by president of the branch, L. J. Jones. L. D. Middough also made a few remarks. Music was furnished by Mrs. C. C. Robinson, soloist, and a choir directed by Mrs. Craig.

**Connecticut:** Important forward steps taken by the Negro were cited by the president of the Bridgeport-Stratford branch at a mass celebration of the 78th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1. Principal speaker for the meeting was Dean William Pickens, director of branches, the welcome was given by Rev. F. W. Jacobs, and the proclamation was read by Gladys Harper. Eleven persons honored for meritorious achievements during 1940 were: Mason Blackwell, George M. Clark, Rev. J. K. Watson, Mrs. Lillian Hill, Lt. P. O. Carter, Ethel Lively, Chester Williams, Dr. Nathan Baskerville, Jacob Holmes, William Hatchett and Mrs. Lucy Dorsey. About 500 persons attended the celebration.

**Delaware:** The annual membership campaign of the Wilmington branch which opened January 26, has a goal of 500 new members.

**Illinois:** The following is the result of the annual election in the Waukegan branch: president, W. J. Payne; Gilbert Cooper, vice-president; P. B. Moore, assistant secretary; Lucius Sanders, treasurer; James Thompson, Dudley Thomas, J. E. Frye, H. C. Bussey, Carl Washington, Rev. W. I. Jankins, and Thomas Young, executive committee.

L. J. Winston has been elected president of the Decatur branch.

**Indiana:** A national defense meeting was held the latter part of December by the South Bend branch in Hering house. Rev. J. L. Hayden, J. C. Allen, C. H. Wills and Mrs. A. B. Barton were speakers.

**Massachusetts:** Cornelius B. Piper has been elected president of the New Bedford branch. He succeeded F. D. Bonner who was named member-at-large of the executive committee. Other officers elected were Mrs. E. C. Brooks, vice-president; C. D. Onley, secretary; Dr. Z. Thomas, treasurer. Chairmen elected were: membership, Dr. T. Parham; press, Mrs. H. Ohley; finance, J. R. Barreau; education, Estelle Carter; legal, Atty. A. Gones; entertainment, Ellen Williams; youth council, Katie Fabio. Featured speaker of the recent meeting was Atty. Thomas M. Quinn, New Bedford Housing Authority member, who described the Bay Village housing project.

**Michigan:** A committee to check with labor unions and industrialists in an effort to obtain more employment for Negroes has been formed by the Detroit branch. Those named to the committee are John McMillan, representing the Detroit Board of Commerce, L. C. Blount, Rev. Bradby, Senator Chas. C. Diggs, Nellie Watts, Rosemary Stackpoole, A. Selman, Laurence Duncan, Mrs. Geraldine Bledsoe, Luke Fennell, and Prince Clark. Walter White, executive secretary, was guest speaker at the Emancipation program held January 1.

**Nebraska:** The Omaha branch elected the following officers recently: Arthur B. McCaw, president; Adam Lee, and Rev. C. Q. Hicherson, vice-presidents; Edward Mease, treasurer, and Mrs. Lucinda Williams, secretary.

**New Jersey:** The Rev. Daniel L. Ridout, president of the Bridgeton branch, has been appointed a contributing editor of the new Christian Advocate, Methodism's official publication. He will report the progress of the Negro membership and contribute occasional feature articles on Negro culture.

The Paterson branch sponsored a holiday tea in December, at which time Miss M. Grace Perry and her committee were gracious hostesses. The program included solos by Elizabeth Long and Helen Roberts, and dramatic readings by Mrs. Travers and Mrs. Myra Rivers.

Everett Johnson, executive director of the Westchester, Pa. Community Center, was speaker at a recent meeting sponsored jointly by the Westfield branch and the Community Center Association at Bethel Baptist church.

**New York:** At a special meeting of the Brooklyn branch held December 18, the president Fred H. M. Turner, announced that the Ministerial Alliance, headed by the Rev. Stewart, had pledged its support of the 1941 program of the association. E. Frederic Morrow, branch coordinator, addressed the group, as did also E. Madison Jones, youth director. Captains of the membership drive now under way are Messrs. Glagg, Paige, Robinsom Spurgeon, Rev. Asip, and the Misses Thompson and Worrell. Sunday, January 5, marked the opening of the drive, with a gala tea held at St. Peter Claver's auditorium. A very full program was presented including speakers E. F. Morrow, Fred Turner, Mrs. Dorothy Funn, of the Brooklyn Joint committee on Employment, and several musical members. The campaign was scheduled to close January 26 with a mammoth mass rally at Boys High School.

Thurgood Marshall, special counsel, addressed the New Rochelle branch in December. The branch heard committee reports and discussed future events.

Plans for promoting inter-racial goodwill through a speakers' bureau were considered by the Rochester branch at its annual meeting held in December. The Reverend Max A. Kapp recommended, in addition to the speakers' bureau, a radio series and an essay contest on "Race Discrimination in Rochester." The Reverend Harry Freda delivered the principal address, and Mrs. Mary Ball, treasurer, reported on the national convention held in Philadelphia.

The Staten Island branch held a program in celebration of the 76th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation in December. Speakers on the program included Everett F. Henry, whose topic was "The Negro in History"; the Reverend Daniel Leo Haynes, assistant pastor of Bethel A.M.E. church, who spoke on "The Social, Religious and Economic Status of the Staten Island Negro"; and Eardlie John, who spoke on "The Plight of the Negro in the United States."

The Five Williams Sisters of Lakewood, N. J., singers and instrumentalists, were featured in a musical program held in December under the auspices of the White Plains Branch. John Borican, holder of the world's track record at 1,000 yards, was guest speaker.

**North Carolina:** The Henderson branch held its regular meeting in December. W. J. Hare, organizer of the branch, was guest speaker.

Dean William Pickens, director of branches, addressed the Winston-Salem branch in December. Mr. Pickens spoke on the objectives and achievements of the Association. Speaking with him was the first Negro juror who served in the Forsyth county superiod court in 40 years. The Safe Bus Choral Club and the Acme Quartet rendered musical selections.

**Ohio:** Officers of the Cincinnati branch are investigating the police brutality case of Sylvester Saunders. Saunders declared he had been held for two nights with no charge against him other

than "suspicion" while police tried to make him confess throwing a brick through an auto window. Saunders had been severely beaten.

Dean Pickens addressed the Mansfield branch at its annual meeting in December.

Mr. Walter White, executive secretary, addressed the Columbus branch in December on the topic "The Negro and National Defense."

**Rhode Island:** The recently elected officers of the Newport branch were installed at the regular December meeting of the branch. They are: Lyle E. Matthews, president; Henry Cross, vice-president; Mrs. Frances King, secretary; Miss Merle Bailey, assistant secretary; Linwood Faison, treasurer; the executive committee: James H. Burney, Miss Sadie Brown, Mrs. Harry Rice, Mrs. Elizabeth Bell, LeRoy Williams, Jesse Bowers, Rev. J. Q. Jackson, Richard King, and Mrs. Aria Carson. Reverend H. E. Charles addressed the meeting on the condition of the colored people in the southern sections of the country.

**Tennessee:** Plans were discussed at the December meeting of the Knoxville branch for an active campaign on several projects, including those pertaining to civic matters and national defense. The branch is attempting to secure 1000 members by mid-January.

**Texas:** Officers and executive committee members of the Houston branch were elected in December. Rev. A. A. Lucas was re-elected president; Rev. John D. Moore, Freeman Everett, and Sidney Hasgett were elected as vice-presidents. Other officers elected were Henry Grayson, secretary; George S. Goodson, treasurer; and A. L. Cheney, assistant secretary. Members of the executive committee are Julius White, N. H. Fitch, Ethel James, O. K. Manning, Mabel Kilpatrick, W. S. Holland, Doris Wesley, Rev. S. A. Pleasant, Pauline O. Smith, Dr. L. E. Smith, R. L. Easter, Rev. J. S. Scott, E. O. Smith, Ora Lee Terry, Rev. M. L. Price, and A. W. Jackson.

**Virginia:** Mr. A. Martin addressed the Danville branch at the monthly meeting of that chapter in December. His subject: "The American Bill of Rights and the Negro."

The first of a series of meetings of the Orange county branch was held at the Bethel Baptist Church, Unionville, Va., the latter part of December. The recently-acquired branch charter was presented, and the officers for 1941 were installed. Dr. J. M. Tinsley, president of the Virginia State Conference of branches, addressed the meeting.

**West Virginia:** The Logan branch met in December and elected officers for the following year: They are: L. H. Richardson, president; Raymond Ferguson, secretary; and W. H. Parks, treasurer. Dr. H. T. Elliott, chairman legal redress and legislative committee; Mr. James Cleveland, chairman educational committee; Mr. Harry Saunders, chairman, labor and industry committee; Mr. William C. Thomas, chairman publicity committee; Mr. J. W. Robinson, chairman, entertainment committee; Mr. J. E. Turner, chairman, membership committee; and Miss C. B. Walker, chairman youth council.

## Book Reviews

### A MUCH NEEDED BIBLIOGRAPHY

***A CLASSIFIED CATALOGUE OF THE NEGRO COLLECTION in the Collis P. Huntington Library of Hampton Institute. Compiled by Mentor A. Howe and Roscoe***


*The book nobody dared write, before!*

# SEX and RACE

*The Saga of Miscegenation from the Dawn of History to the Present*

**By J. A. ROGERS**

**Traveler, Historian, Ethnologist; author of "As Nature Leads" "From 'Superman' to Man", "100 Amazing Facts About the Negro", etc.**

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**J. A. ROGERS PUBLICATIONS, 37 Morningside Avenue, New York, N. Y.**

***E. Lewis. Hampton, Virginia: Hampton Institute, 1940. X+ 291 pp. $1.50. Paper bound.***

Though the Hampton Institute Negro collection is far from inchoate, for the nucleus of the present collection had its beginning in 1908 when George Foster Peabody gave the Tucker A. Malone collection to the Institute, and though the collection is rated one of the best in the country, this is the first comprehensive catalogue of the material. The compilation has been made by two men who are well equipped to undertake the task, since they are the actual writers of that illuminating historical study, *The Negro in Virginia*. The George Foster Peabody collection, as it is called at Hampton Institute, now comprises about 6,000 titles, books and pamphlets. Our authors have listed 5,075 titles. Listing these titles must have been a tedious job, for many of the items are not housed with the main collection in the George Foster Peabody Room but interspersed throughout the main stacks. Many valuable items, it seems, have never been classified with the Peabody collection. For instance, the Huntington Library owns two copies of H. Grégoire: the French edition of 1808, and the English edition of 1810, but neither copy is listed in the Peabody collection. Nor are these copies listed in this bibliography.

The Library has recently added the Ortiz edition of Saco's *Historia de la Esclavitud*, etc., yet for some puzzling reason this very valuable study of Negro slavery in Latin America is not considered a part of the collection, nor is it listed by our authors. Carl Kjersmeier's *Centres de style de la sculpture nègre africaine* is classified with the collection but housed in the Art Room. At least it was the last time I used it. The Library owns copies of the *Atlanta University French Series* but they are not catalogued in either the regular card catalogue or the Peabody collection. A rare Spanish version of Washington's *Up From Slavery* has been omitted from the collection, too.

Without a curator the Huntington Library apparently has no definite policy in either the classification or the purchasing of new material. Though many rare, valuable, and useful items have been on the market practically none of them has been bought. The present policy seems to be to add a copy of a book if it is by a contemporary Negro author, but there is no systematic effort to enrich the material.

**Collection Seldom Used**

Until recent years the collection was seldom used even by Hampton Institute students. And Hampton Institute itself did not have a course in Negro history until two years ago. Though the collection is especially rich in material on slavery and the Reconstruction, it has been used by few scholars, and practically never by local dabblers in things Negro. Volumes of the *Liberator* are rotting away in a safe, unused. The first fruitful use of this material was made by our authors in the writing of the historical study just mentioned.

Many rare items are found in this collection: the 1838 edition of the poems of Phillis Wheatley, Bandinel's study of the slave trade, the works of Clarkson, the publications of the Society of Friends, Leonis Africani's description of Africa, works by Livingstone and Mungo Park, bibliographies of the Negro, and files of Negro newspapers and magazines. In a short review I cannot call attention to all the valuable items housed in the collection and listed in this bibliography.

**Well Arranged**

The material of the catalogue is arranged under two main headings: "Part One: The Negro in Africa," and "Part Two: The Negro in the United States." There are fifteen subheadings under "Part One" with the "entries arranged alphabetically within specific subject classification." "Part Two" has fifty-one subheadings with many sub-subheadings. The subject entries are given in the Table of Contents. The book also has an author index, "although much subject material has been indexed." Every item listed has been numbered and index references are to these numbers instead of the page. The index also includes cross references. Items under subject content are not limited to classification headings, but our authors have not increased their classification because of lack of space. Place of publication, publisher, year, edition, and the number of pages are given for all items where possible.

I should like to call the compilers' attention to one very, very trivial error found on page 255 under item 5063. *Race*, a quarterly devoted to social, political, and economic equality, 1936, v. 1, no. 1, winter 1936, is not the "only issue." The second issue was that for summer 1936, v. 1, no. 2, with articles by Alain Locke, Henry Leiper, Mark Graubard, Langston Hughes, and others.

This book is immensely valuable to all scholars interested in source material on the Negro in Africa and the United States. The curious layman will even find it valuable for perusal. He will at least not fall into the miscomputation of the famous white professor who once sent Woodson ten dollars, I think it was, for a complete set of books on the Negro. For future editions of this valuable catalogue, I would suggest that the compilers add brief annotations and star the names of Negro authors of fiction and poetry since such bibliographical entries are more often used as check lists than any other.

JAMES W. IVY

# Answers Fair Critic

(*Continued from page* 49)

5,000 by the NYA, using the silk screen process. This commercial firm was white as were the printers of the "direct mail publicity folders" because, frankly, no Negro firm was capable of doing the job. No Negro firm is equipped to do six color lithographing as was done on the poster (designed by a Negro, R. S. Pious of New York) or turn out 250,000 three-color folders of this type, because there has been no demand for this kind of work in Negro printing establishments.

Speaking of "the ice cream and hot dogs being made in white plants," it should be remembered that this concession was sold to the Young Drug Stores, largest Negro chain drug stores in existence, and this firm knows precisely whose products it cares to handle. Any dissatisfaction along that line should be taken up with that drug company.

These are only a few of the major hallucinations of Selma Gordon that were printed in the January CRISIS, but it gives an idea of the general falsity of her picture. I don't know whether she could not see, or intentionally took pains to weave a web of lies.

# One True Love

(*Continued from page* 47)

Sam raced frantically back to the hall where the night nurse sat.

"Could Nora Jones be put in one of these here rooms to herself? I got every bit of four hundred dollars! Couldn't nobody set by her?"

The nurse glanced at a paper on her desk.

"She can't be moved right now! Perhaps—if she's better tomorrow—maybe —!"

You could tell all this meant that nothing nobody could do would help Nora anymore.

Sam went back to the bed and sat behind the white screen. He laid his head beside Nora's and cried.

His love must have reached her somewhere.

Nora's eyes focussed on him for a second. "Sam—! Sam—" he could hardly hear her. "I've got l—I've got l—!"

It sounded as if she said "law" her breath rasped so and her lower jaw seemed to fall away from the work.

Sam wiped his eyes and grabbed her hand.

"I know Nora! I know you got that old law to lean on! Ef you could of just want something I could a helped you git! Just get well! I'll help you get that law!"

Nora tried to shake her head.

Couldn't he understand?

She had waited and waited to tell Sam that down deep somewhere where she had been lost in pain for so long—there was nothing about books and what they gave you. The only thing she had remembered had been that there was someone who loved her enough to love her even when she was snappish and cross—who came back again and again —no matter what.

And she was glad!

So glad she wanted to tell Sam that she loved him—had love enough for the two rooms he wanted on Rommy Street and enough to try to understand how his grandmother came to stay married fifty years.

Right now Nora was too tired to try to tell him again.

She closed her eyes.

But she closed her eyes carrying with her the love that was in Sam's eyes.

She thought she smiled.

The doctor said the death agony had set her face at that angle.

He wondered too, why that little colored man just sat by that empty bed crying so long. The nurses wanted to prepare the bed for another case.

And Sam sat crying—wishing he had been elegant and wonderful enough to

match the wonder in Nora—trying to take something out into his empty world from an empty bed.

## This Mongrel World

(*Continued from page* 48)

In no recent book of Negro history have I found so many interesting and often startling facts and little known truths. When a Negro reads this book, he can lay it down with pride in the achievements of his race.

## Grazin' in Good Pastures

(*Continued from page* 43)

Just as she left the kitchen, her husband said:

"Don't expect me to carry you in to town tomorrow. I got work in the field to do. No money to hire hands with."

David had long ago sold his model T. Their first year had been a crop failure, due to so much rains. There had not been enough hands to chop out the grass. And he had to use the team in the field.

---

It was five miles in to Pinecrest, but Rubye did not let this stop her. She got up at three in the morning, hastily cooked up some bread for David, and fried meat. She left his breakfast on the stove and then lit the lantern. She did not want a bite herself, for she felt sort of weak and tired.

She closed the door behind her, and went straight to the rose field to cut her orange roses. Not until she was nearly there did she remember that she had not got her hoe. Well, surely the black-runner would not be out at night.

When she reached her prize roses, she let out a pitiful gasp. She could hardly believe her eyes. All the leaves had fallen off during the night. Or had they been plucked? She sank down beside them, broken-hearted, weeping:

"I can't believe it! He wouldn't have done such a horrible thing to me. But the leaves were too firm to have dropped off. Oh, he knew if I failed, I would leave. That's it! He wants me to leave. He really wants me to leave."

She sat there in the dew for at least twenty minutes, sobbing out her heart. Suddenly she became aware of a long black thing beside her. A black-runner! Before she could rise the snake was across her lap. She grabbed out at it, every drop of her blood seeming to have turned to ice. As she tugged and struggled to get up, the snake only wound himself tighter about her, drawing her back to the ground.

"David! Oh, my God! David!"

But he was at the house. He could not hear her. Still she emitted one scream after another.

Then she heard:

"Comin'!"

And she fainted.

When she came to, she was lying on the bed in the fireplace room. David was bathing her face.

"He didn't git time to hurt yo, honey," he was saying. "I killed him with my knife first. I cut him off yo. Yo is just scared, not hurt."

Rubye suddenly sat up.

"No, I'm not hurt. Just scared. Please leave me alone so I can rest."

She had remembered how he had destroyed her prize roses that night. She did not want him even in the room with her ever again.

David gave her a funny look, but obeyed and left. Soon she saw him hitching up and going out to the field.

"He actually thinks more of his cotton than he does of me. He's got to get that precious white stuff out of the field before a rain."

Rubye was not to be beaten. She remembered her black roses. Though the black rose had before been grown, she knew it had not in this section. She rose and hastily dressed.

It was noon before Rubye reached the fair grounds. She was thankful to find that she was in time to enter her roses. In fact hers were the only ones at the fair. She learned that a man from the A. and M. was to judge the plants. She waited with bated breath. Maybe he would appreciate her roses. No one in Coonville did.

---

As she waited there on the hard bench, she realized that she had not had a bite to eat that day. Still she was not hungry. She felt sort of sick at her stomach. Cold chills ran up and down her spine. Then hot flashes passed over her. She thought it was due to her scare. She prayed that she could stand it until her plants were judged.

It was four that afternoon before the man came to judge her plants. Rubye had held on somehow, but she hardly realized what was going on until a man said:

"Whose roses are these? By George, I never saw such roses! I've seen the black ones before, but not such large specimens. Judging by the stalk they must grow six feet tall."

Rubye rose.

"They're from David Woods' farm out in Coonville Community. He—he raised them."

The man turned to the young woman.

"You representing him?"

"I am his wife."

"How did he do it, lady?"

"I—he is keeping that a secret. He hopes to sell cuttings. He also has found the orange rose. And some of the biggest pink and yellow ones you ever saw."

"That's a damn' lie!" said a voice behind them.

Rubye turned and saw David stumbling up, his black eyes filled with both resentment and anger.

"She done it by herself. I raise cotton and corn."

"Well, she's done something, man. She'll win five hundred dollars for just this black rose. And I can fill as many orders for her orange rose as she can supply. Probably some of these others, too."

David looked at his wife in time to catch her as she fell in a faint.

When Rubye came to, David had the doctor with her. She was at the Pinecrest Hospital. David was sitting beside her crying.

"Why are you crying?" Rubye asked her husband. "Am I that bad off? Or is it because I am not going to die?"

"Mrs. Woods, you have the malaria fever. Nothing to worry about. I'll have you fixed up before long. I'd better be going now. See that she takes her medicine, young man." Then the doctor picked up his case.

"Yes, suh."

As soon as the doctor had left the room, David looked sorrowfully at his wife and said:

"Honey, I wish yo'd take a gun and kill me."

"We'll forget all about it, David."

"No, we won't until yo understand it was the cotton I was so stubborn about, not that I didn't love yo. Folks first thought I was grazin' in good pastures when I brung yo home, and then soon they got to sayin' I wasn't. I wanted to win out, win by myself, even if yo wouldn't help. But yo won without my help. I'm a fool!"

"If you are, you are the sweetest one I ever saw. David, you can't drive me off now that I know you love me. That is all that matters to my heart. Tonight take me home and let's listen to the hoot owl quarreling again."

"Sho' will. He says somethin' new now, honey. I heard him last night."

"Work done
no done
night come
go home."

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## TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION GETS NEW FIELD WORKER

Miss S. Louise Algee of Wilberforce, Ohio, has been appointed a special field worker on the Negro program of the National Tuberculosis Association, it was announced January 9 by Dr. C. Howard Marcy, Pittsburgh, chairman of the Association's Negro Committee.

Miss Algee was graduated from Ohio State university and from the Kahler Hospital school of nursing, Rochester, Minn. She has been an instructor at Wilberforce university in the department of health and physical education.

## CORRECTION

THE CRISIS wishes to apologize for its error in the text of the advertisement of the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance in our January 1941 number. The figures which appeared in this advertisement should have been used in the National Negro Insurance Association statistics.

## The Poll Tax

(*Continued from page* 41)

possible to remove the poll tax by state action alone. In Virginia, two successive sessions of the state legislature must pass an amendment to the constitution and then the proposal is submitted to the poll-tax electorate for ratification or rejection. The legislatures of Georgia, South Carolina, and Alabama are dominated by members from the "rotten borough" Black Belt districts, and it is not likely that they would favor the repeal of the poll tax. Two years ago a proposal to abolish the poll tax as a requirement for voting was submitted to the poll-tax electorate in Arkansas. Thirteen percent of the people voted in the referendum. Seven percent voted against repeal of the tax. The poll tax remained in the state constitution. Nor is it probable in any of the other states that the poll-tax minority will vote to destroy their own political power by abolishing the restrictions on suffrage.

### Appeal to Courts

The second attempt to abolish the poll tax has been brought through the courts. Henry Pirtle, a farmer in Grundy County, Tennessee, wanted to vote in the special election which was being held in September, 1939 to fill a vacancy in the United States Congress. He met all of the qualifications but one. He had not paid the two dollar poll tax. The judges of the election said that he could not vote. Pirtle filed a bill of complaint in the Federal District Court in Tennessee asking that he be declared eligible to vote in the special election as well as in all subsequent elections for federal officers. His request was based on several grounds: First, that the right to vote for members of Congress stems from the Constitution of the United States. Members of Congress, though they represent the citizens of each state, are officers of the federal government, and the holding of an election to fill their positions is, in part, a federal function. Second, that the rights arising from the Constitution and the functions of the federal government are not subject to taxation by the states. The poll tax as a prerequisite for voting, then, acts as a tax on a constitutional right and on a function of the

## LEGAL DIRECTORY

Responding to frequent inquiries, THE CRISIS carries herewith the names and addresses with telephone numbers of some of the 1300 colored attorneys in the United States, purely as a service to those seeking such information. THE CRISIS does not maintain a legal bureau, as many readers seem to think, and the N.A.A.C.P. concerns itself only with cases involving color discrimination, segregation or denial of citizenship rights. Lawyers whose names do not appear below are requested to write to THE CRISIS.

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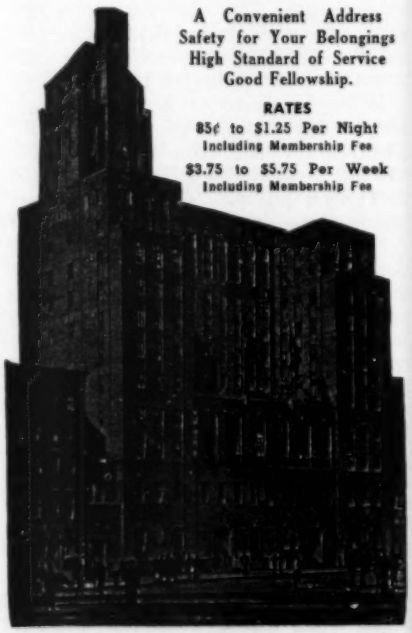

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federal government. Third, that the right to vote is a privilege and immunity within the meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, and that the imposition of a poll tax as a prerequisite to the right to vote is an unconstitutional abridgement of the privileges and immunities of citizens of the United States. Of this there can be little doubt, for even the Supreme Court of Mississippi once admitted that the poll tax was primarily a "clog upon the franchise." The *Pirtle* case is now pending before the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and it may ultimately go before the United States Supreme Court. The Southern Conference for Human Welfare and the United Mine Workers of America are the co-sponsors of the case.

**Bill in Congress**

The third effort to abolish the poll tax has been through the Congress of the United States. At the request of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, I introduced a bill in Congress last session to prohibit the collection of poll taxes in federal elections. It is based on the right of Congress to prevent "pernicious political activities" in connection with the election of federal officials. The bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee, whose chairman is Hon. Hatton W. Sumners of poll-tax Texas, and hearings were subsequently held on the bill by Hon. Francis E. Walter of Pennsylvania. Not since the hearings were held last spring has the sub-committee met to consider the bill. Nor has the chairman of the sub-committee permitted the hearings on the bill to be printed. His reason, he declared last year, was that the proponents of the anti-poll tax bill wanted, of all things, to use the hearings throughout the country to get support for the bill before Congress.

The anti-poll tax bill has not yet had the benefit of the printed hearings, but it has nevertheless received significant support from diverse organizations. Organized labor is solidly behind the bill with the American Federation of Labor, the Congress of Industrial Organizations, and the Railroad Brotherhoods all on record for its passage. Farm support for the bill is indicated in the endorsement by the Farmers' Union. The women's organizations behind the campaign include the Young Women's Christian Associations, the Women's Trade Union League, the League of Women Shoppers, and a number of the state Leagues of Women Voters. Negro support has been obtained from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, The I.B.P.O.E., The Colored Voters League and the National Negro Congress.

**Symbol of Democracy**

The struggle to broaden the suffrage has always been a symbol of the fight for democracy. Today the campaign to repeal the poll tax must be made even more the symbol for the defense of democracy in the United States. For we cannot, nor can any of the poll-tax legislators, pretend to be defending democracy anywhere in the world as long as we continue to disfranchise ten million white and Negro Southerners. It will remain for the organized pressure of the American people to bring this lesson home to the members of the Seventy-Seventh Congress. And it is especially crucial for the Negro to exert his strength to break down the barriers of Jim-Crow and disfranchisement in the South. That the four million Negroes who live outside of the South have decisive political strength is given eloquent testimony in the recent votes on the Anti-Lynching Bill. Two hundred sixty-two congressmen voted for the bill in the 76th Congress, and every reader of THE CRISIS knows that the vote of each congressman indicated the influence of the Negro voter in his district. If the Southern Negro and white people are ever going to be freed from the minority rule of the poll-tax electorate, they will need the continuous support of people throughout the United States. They must flood their congressmen and senators with demands that the Anti-Poll Tax Bills be passed.

## Negro Labor in Housing

(*Continued from page* 45)

On the whole, however, this technique of minimum percentages has worked out well. As a result, Negro labor employed in the construction of 289 USHA-aided projects, located in 129 communities, received wages of $7,232,448.27 in the 23 months of construction ending with October 31, 1940. This sum represents 13.35 per cent of all wages paid to labor in the construction of these projects and reflects an average of approximately $315,000 per month going to Negro building trades workers. Negro skilled workers received $789,-286.44 of this sum representing approximately 5 per cent of the total wages paid skilled labor on these projects. These figures, together with the earnings of

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Negroes on Public Works Administration Housing Division Projects, bring the total earning of Negro construction workers on public housing projects to more than ten million dollars.

### Negro Artisan Helped

Indeed, the Government's public housing program has been an important factor in facilitating the return of the Negro building trades worker to the position which he formerly held. These are many persons who can well remember the time when the Negro was the principal building trades worker throughout the South. This was a heritage from the period when practically all labor in that region was performed by Negro workers. But in recent years, in fact for the last generation or so, forces have been in operation which have tended to diminish the number and percentage of Negroes employed in skilled occupations. In many cities, it is now practically impossible for a Negro carpenter, bricklayer, plumber, or electrician to find profitable employment. He has been excluded from most large-scale construction work and relegated almost entirely to repair work and small-scale construction in the speculative field. Even public projects, using public funds—either Federal, state, or municipal—have largely neglected the Negro worker who, like his white fellow-worker, is a taxpayer.

In the construction of USHA-aided projects some 2,600 Negro workers in 27 crafts have found employment. They have been largely concentrated in the trowel trades with 800 bricklayers, 700 cement finishers, and 420 plasteres employed. The carpenters are the next highest category, totaling 308. However, employment has included such variety of workers as electricians, lathers, linoleum layers, plumbers, painters, roofers, tile setters, drillers, and equipment operators.

It is noteworthy that Negro employment has been heaviest and most steady in those trades in which Negroes most freely participate in labor organization. As the program continues, the range of Negro employment has expanded and there has been indication of a lessening of opposition to their employment. This can only mean that all the forces involved in implementing the employment policy of the USHA—the Local Housing Authority, the building contractors, the referral agency, the Negro worker, and the Negro community—are assuming an increasing share of their obligations in this matter.

If the Negro skilled worker is to make continued advances in the construction field, it is necessary that a sound program of training and apprenticeship be developed. Our records show a total of 60 Negro apprentices in 12 crafts. This is an entirely inadequate number particularly in light of the fact that many of the Negro building trades workers are well along in their middle age according to a Federal survey on the Negro urban worker made in 1936. Our young men will have to receive training either in vocational schools or on the job if the race is to retain a foothold in the construction industry. Unfortunately, much of what is called vocational training in Negro institutions is of little practical value and, in the past, by far the greatest number of Negro craftsmen have received their training through apprenticeship on the job; and now it appears that there are only 60 apprentices to the 2,600 craftsmen employed on these projects. This ratio is inadequate to provide sufficient replacements.

### Many Difficulties

There are, of course, long-standing difficulties in the way of the Negro apprentice. The labor unions, perhaps necessarily, exercise a rigid control over apprenticeships. But when they seek to exclude any young man because of race, it is evident that they are exercising an undemocratic control. In many cities this control has been extended to training in technical high schools and institutions supported by public funds. Boards of education have acquiesced in discrimination against Negro youth in certain trades. This is a situation which the Negro community must combat.

Today much of the energy of the Nation is being directed toward defense industries. It is important that the Negro worker share equitably in employment in these industries. No doubt, many young men are now turning their attention toward this type of employment. However, it is well to remember that such employment will be limited to the duration of the emergency. After the emergency, and some time it must come to an end, there will be a distinct falling off in this type of employment. Meanwhile, the need for housing and construction work will continue and expand, as Mr. Nathan Straus, USHA Administrator, pointed out in an address before the recent AF of L convention in New Orleans. The emergency will no doubt stimulate construction, but long after Hitler shall have been forgotten as a frightful nightmare, there will be continuing need for the construction of homes. It is well for the young man choosing a trade to remember this.

The Government's public housing program has two primary objectives: the development of low-rent housing and the creation of employment opportunities. The extent to which Negroes have participated in the construction of these projects has been reviewed here in some measure. Their participation in occupancy has been even more extensive. There are today approximately 15,000 low income Negro families living in projects developed by Government aid. At least 12,000 of these have been rehoused in the last three years since the establishment of the United States Housing Authority. Under the present program, some 50,000 Negro families throughout the country, North and South, in big cities, in small towns, and even in rural areas will be rehoused.

This program is an important factor in elevating the social and economic status of the Negro. In 24 cities including five in the South the Negro is represented on the Local Housing Authorities. Three of the 24 Negro members are women. It has brought to the Negro new opportunities for decent living, for employment not only in construction work but also in some 60 categories of management, professional, clerical, and technical jobs.

Because of its beneficial effects upon employment and the broad opportunities offered for equitable integration into all phases of an important social program, nearly all prominent organizations interested in the social and economic progress of Negroes have expressed their support of public housing. In their opinion, here is a program which approches vital problems in a highly realistic and democratic manner. These organizations, therefore, serve as a focus for a wide and growing public opinion in support of the continuance and expansion of the public housing program. Certainly, at a time of public emergency, such support will grow with the realization of the contribution of decent housing and work opportunity to heightened morale for the national defense.

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